MacFormat ISSUE 226 October 2010

> 99 Snow Leopard secrets > Has Apple killed the mouse? > Group test: Twitter clients for Mac > Canon IXUS 300 HS and 3 MiFi Mobile Wi-Fi reviewed

Printed in the UK

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Mac FORMAT

> Mac > iPad > iPhone
> Issue 226 October 2010

HAS APPLE KILLED THE MOUSE?

We live with the new Magic TrackPad for a month **p26**

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- Norrkross Movie
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Mac FORMAT
HAS APPLE KILLED THE MOUSE?
99 SNOW LEOPARD SECRETS

Subscribe to *MacFormat* to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get a Lowepro Messenger Bag as well. **Turn to page 32 now!**

Well, what a busy month it's been! Not only has Apple released some great new products (check out the review of the new Core i3 iMacs on page 88 and the Magic Trackpad on page 91), but it's also opened its 300th Apple Store, right here in the UK. Apple now has a staggering 300+ Apple Stores dotted around the world. The majority are in the US, but the two biggest stores are London's Regent Street and the new Covent Garden store. As I discovered on my visit to its opening, the Covent Garden store is more like an art gallery than a retail shop, except you actually get to play with the exhibits. If you're a Mac owner then you should definitely include it in your next visit to the capital – just don't take your credit card too, or it could end up being an expensive trip!

With all the excitement over iPads and iPhones in the media, it's good to slow down and get back to the Mac, and this month's Snow Leopard tips feature is something that will appeal to every Mac user. I certainly learned a thing or two after reading it, and now put the little tips and tricks I picked up into daily use. While iPods, iPads and iPhones may be grabbing the headlines, it's the Mac that's at the core of Apple's ecosystem, and there's always more to learn. Enjoy the issue!

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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Deputy Editor

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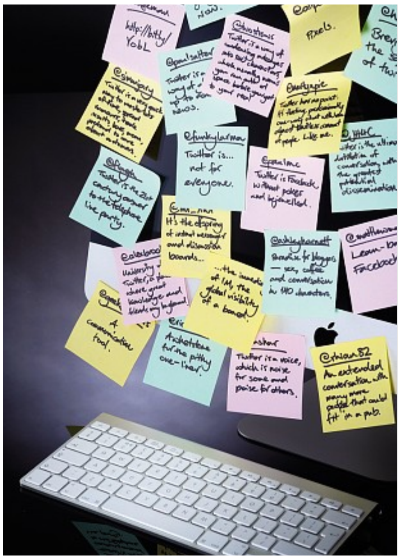

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Set up your own iMovie studio **p58**

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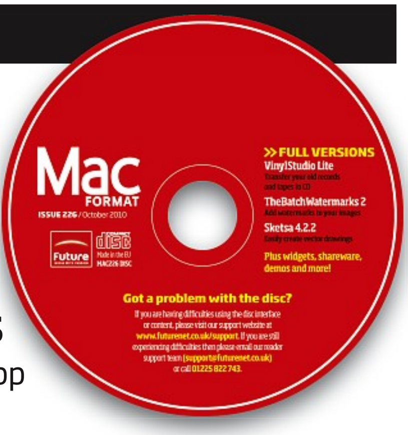

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Add watermarks to your images
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Turn to page 121 to find out more!

Mac presents
The Essential iPhone 4 Handbook
Get started with all the iPhone 4's new features!

Start up

Apple vs Google in TV battle

Apple and Google are racing to reinvent television. Who will win?

Established UK broadcaster ITV is considering court action on the strength of rumours that Apple intends to introduce a version of the Apple TV under the name iTV.

Recent reports claim Apple intends releasing a version of its digital living-room set-top box perhaps as soon as this autumn. It could even debut during Apple's much-anticipated September music event, but Apple may prefer to keep the spotlight directed on new iPod models in its pre-Christmas introduction.

The new Apple TV/iTV is expected to be a small and discreet iPhone-sized device powered by an A4 processor. At $99, it could host 16GB flash storage and debut in conjunction with Apple's much-anticipated iTunes TV and movie-streaming service, based on certain technologies acquired with Lala.com.

A mid-summer *New York Times* report informed us, "Apple has recently hired a number of new user interface designers with backgrounds in television broadcast design."

These developers have been challenged to integrate Apple's iOS system into a television set capable of handling media streaming and *iTunes* content. This also demands support for and development of a user interface for touch-based iOS apps. With games now important peers in the iOS ecosystem, Apple's device will compete directly with the gaming consoles currently offered from Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo.

But UK broadcaster, ITV, has already reacted furiously to Apple's mooted plan to call the device 'iTV'. With a 55-year history of broadcasting in the UK, Independent Television immediately set plans to contest Apple's attempt to take its brand. Mike Large, Group Director at ITV, told Pocket-Lint the broadcaster had "vigorously defended" its brand in the past and would do so in future. He rejected any move to licence the patent to Apple, saying it would "muddy the waters" of the brand.

Of course, these claims are based on rumour. Apple may have a different plan for the Apple TV, but any attempt they have to take on one of the UK's oldest broadcasters is unlikely to see the US company prevail in the UK.

Google, meanwhile, is also involved in developing its own Google TV service, intended to be supported by televisions and other devices made by Sony and Logitech.

However, Google's plan already faces resistance from TV-show

>>MORE NEWS
For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone visit
www.macformat.co.uk

APPLE IN PICTURES / Going Gaga for Apple

GOOD ROMANCE?

What's Lady Gaga got to do with Apple, you ask? Tongues are wagging after her Twitter revealed a visit to Cupertino. Now people are asking: will she front future iPod ads?

makers, who fear the search giant will destroy their business, without providing a viable business model in compensation. That Google TV will let users access all manner of web content, including pirated clips, has networks worried their content will be lost in the clamour.

The *LA Times* said they fear Google TV will increase piracy, won't make money and will decimate cable and satellite subscriptions, hurting their business.

Assuming it avoids being sued by ITV, Apple may actually have a slightly better deal for content makers. *iTunes* users are already used to paying for music or TV shows they want to see, and there's some expectation Apple's streamed iTunes service will require a subscription fee. With the addition of iAds-based advertising revenues, Apple may already be in position to seal a deal.

ITV's surprise at Apple's choice of name betrays one significant suspicion that is: Apple hasn't yet started speaking with networks outside the US.

This suggests the company will not introduce streamed television services internationally upon its launch. It seems far more probable that the streaming service will be available as US-only at first. This matches the manner in which Apple originally introduced the iTunes Store.

The battle between Apple and its former-ally-turned enemy, Google, is now growing in intensity. However, Apple already makes sufficient money for content providers – can Google's business match this model?

Speaking in May this year, Apple CEO Steve Jobs characterised the challenges of innovation in the TV industry as the lack of a viable go-to market strategy. "The only way that's ever going to change is if you can really go back to square one, and tear up the set-top box, and re-design it from scratch, with a consistent UI across all these different functions, and get it to the consumer in a way that they're willing to pay for it. And right now there's no way to do that." ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

2.7%

1 in 40 mobiles sold worldwide in Q2 was an iPhone.

> *"Before joining my friend for one of the important days of his life, I pulled a device from my pocket"*

Christopher Phin waxes nuptial about the merits of an iPhone »

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

›Apple
www.apple.com
"White models of iPhone 4 have continued to be more challenging to manufacture; they will not be available until later this year."
The wait for white is on

›Ron Johnson
www.apple.com
"Staff are taught to look in the heart, not the pocket book."
Apple's retail chief on the secret of success

›Shantanu Narayen
www.adobe.com
"They've chosen to keep their system closed and we'd rather work with those who are interested in working with us."
Adobe boss defends Flash

›Phil Schiller
www.apple.com
"The new Mac Pro is the most powerful Mac we've ever made."
Schiller bigs up the MacPro

›Heiko Hubertz
www.bigpoint.com
"Even if there were 100,000 paid-for apps, that would mean each one makes an average revenue of $10,000. So development costs on the App Store have to remain very low."
Gaming chief says apps don't make much money

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Tie the knot with iPhone

Christopher Phin

Though you rarely see his face in the magazine – that's one of the perks of being the man who sends pages to press – you can see the influence *MacFormat*'s art editor, Alex, on every page. He got married recently, so on your behalf, if I might be so presumptuous: congratulations, Mr & Mrs Thomas!

The wedding was marvellous; a charming service, champagne, lovely people and heaps of food. And when that was all done, a band struck up, the dancing started and, later, as fine a selection of pasties was served as has ever been served. Like I say: marvellous.

The impact of consumer electronics technology on this millennia-old tradition was minimal. Sure, the cameras snapping were digital, and there were more video-capable devices than you might fairly have expected to see two generations ago, but fundamentally it was a day about them, their families and friends.

But my iPhone, as well as doing things that I just take for granted now – navigating us to the venue, taking photos and video, keeping in touch with other friends – did one very tiny thing that reminded me how genuinely profitable is the package of services it wraps up.

> *"My iPhone did one very tiny thing that reminded me how profitable is the package of services it wraps up"*

Never having had call to progress from my schoolboy four-in-hand knot for a tie – except for teaching myself to tie a dickie for black tie events some years ago – I decided, on a whim, as my wife and I were changing in our hotel, to tie a proper half Windsor knot instead.

Just minutes before joining my friend for one of the most important days of his life, I pulled a device from my pocket, tapped it a few times, watched a video, and learned something new. No premeditation, no libraries; new knowledge, however trivial, was mine on cue, for a cost so low as to be zero. This observation isn't a fraction as momentous as the commitment Alex and Hannah made that day, but it's still worth remembering how charmed and rich is the life that we in the developed world lead. ●

Christopher Phin is a secret agent working on a secret mission – email him on christopher.phin@futurenet.com to find out more.

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Most Common Items
Cappuccino
Espresso
Green Tea
Iced Coffee
Caramels
Ethiopia Drip
Macchiato
Shared Chemex
Settings
Pay
Enter an optional note
Clear

Use your iPad or iPhone to pay your way.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Phone payment

Apple's growing interest in mobile money

Apple has hired an expert in mobile wallet and payment systems as it works towards realising some ideas noted in previous iPhone-related patent filings.

Near-field communications (NFC) expert Benjamin Vigier has been hired as its product manager of mobile commerce. Industry watchers believe his skills will be used to help Apple implement systems that let iPhone users pay for goods and services using their Apple phone, no payment card required.

APPLE IN NUMBERS

14.2%

Apple's slice of the global smartphone market.

NFX is a short-range high-frequency wireless communication technology, which enables data exchanges between devices at short distances. It's the kind of technology used in smartcards for public transport.

A recent Apple patent revealed it has developed a method for building an NFC antenna into a touchscreen. An iPhone equipped with NFC could be swiped across a reader to make a financial exchange, maybe using *iTunes* as the payment system.

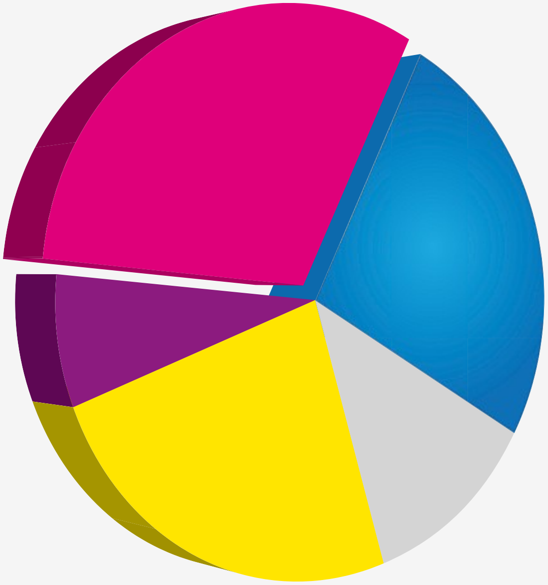
Vigier previously ran mobile wallet services and NFC at mFoundry, where he conceived and managed the Starbucks payment system on the iPhone.

Apple already holds several patents on related technologies, including airline ticketing and boarding pass apps, a concert, entertainment and sports ticketing app, and a slew of mobile payments services. It also holds patents on names such as iPay, iBuy and iCoupons.

IDC analyst, Will Stofega, speculated on whether Apple had spent time considering the acquisition of NFC firm, VIVOtech. That company has more than 600,000 contactless point-of-sale readers in use globally. To enter this market, Apple will need to figure out how to create viable points of sale.

However, mobile-based payment systems aren't new. They are commonplace in Japan. There are several US firms – including Square Inc (illustrated) who are developing ways to make the iPhone a virtual wallet. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS / Read all about it



WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED METHOD OF READING PAPERS AND MAGAZINES?

Apple's iPad is becoming the preferred method of reading newspapers and magazines among consumers already owning the device, according to a Cooper Murphy Webb survey of 1,034 UK iPad owners.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Are you free? MobileMe...
We think the opening of Apple's North Carolina data centre means the stage is set for more freedom from MobileMe. Expect hosted apps and more social features.

HOT: iOS everywhere
The Magic Trackpad underlines how important touch-based UIs are becoming to Apple, which now offers uniform experiences to desktop and notebook users.

NOT: Apple loves Android
Success in eBook sales comes with availability via multiple devices. iBooks could sell well with Android, but will Apple's ego let it embrace an alternative to iOS?

NOT: Flash for iPhone
Apple's judgement on Flash is that with multimedia being central to the mobile experience, open (rather than proprietary) standards are required. This will not change.

COMPANY SHUFFLE

Papermaster cut

iPhone 4 Antennagate scandal claims a scalp

Mark Papermaster, the Apple executive responsible for the development of the iPhone 4, has left the company over the widely reported Antennagate reception debacle.

Until recently, working as Apple's Senior Vice President of Devices Hardware Engineering, Papermaster had reportedly lost the confidence of Apple CEO, Steve Jobs "months" before the iPhone's release. He "hadn't been part of the decision-making process for some time", according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The 49-year-old executive began work at Apple in April 2009 after a lengthy noncompete legal case with former employer, IBM. Court documents reveal Apple wanted Papermaster because of his "strong general engineering skills," and that he "is an outstanding leader, and because we believe he will be a good cultural match at Apple".

It seems he wasn't a good cultural fit: Papermaster had difficulty managing Apple's legendary internal politics and didn't appear to have the kind of 'start-up' thinking the company requires.

That his removal follows Apple's high-profile move to offer iPhone 4 purchasers free cases to stem the tide of negative publicity following widely reported antenna problems is remarkable.

Apple was responding to a problem in which users accidentally bridging the small gap between the iPhone's two antenna at the left side of the device would lose reception.

Blogger John Gruber believes Papermaster was sacked because he was responsible for the antenna. Gruber's source allegedly said, "Apparently the antenna guys used to have a big chip on their shoulder. No more." Papermaster's duties will now be handled by Apple's engineering chief, Bob Mansfield. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

130,000

In Korea, 14,500 iPhone 4 units were sold on day one.

AppleonTV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

They do like to feature Macs on BBC2's hit comedy series *That Mitchell and Web Look*. We've seen MacBooks take a TV bow during the current series, now spot the iMac here inside series four, episode five.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Patently desirable

Susie Ochs

Few things seem less fun than sifting through public patent records looking for hints about a certain company's future plans. But I'm glad somebody's got the patience, because latest patent filings discovered by PatentlyApple.com are riveting. The sketches and descriptions get Apple watchers' imaginations churning, conjuring up not only what the product would be, but also how you would use it.

And this one's a doozy: a touchscreen all-in-one desktop that's been dubbed the iMac touch. It would work in upright configuration much like the iMacs of today, running Mac OS X, with input coming from a keyboard, mouse, Magic Trackpad and so on. Then you just recline the screen to transition to the iOS operating system and multi-touch input. It's like a mullet haircut, only instead of 'business in front, party in the back,' the iMac Touch is 'business upright, party laying flat.' Since the iPad is better for some things, and the iMac is better for others, combining both in one machine seems irresistible. I just hope the screen detaches from the stand for use in iOS mode, or I'm going to have to buy a new desk chair.

"Since the iPad is better for some things, and iMac is better for others, combining both seems irresistible"

The patent also describes controlling your iPhone or iPad from the iMac touch, hopefully to manage its media library and update apps without needing to tether and sync to *iTunes*. (I'm so sick of losing all my dock cables.) Making iPhone calls directly from a Mac is mentioned, too. *Address Book* can dial a compatible Bluetooth phone already; I always wondered why the iPhone didn't support it. The patent figure of a MacBook that transitions into a tablet isn't shocking either, looking similar to 'netvertibles' on the market from Asus, Lenovo, and others. Of course, none of those run OSes as good as OS X.

Obviously not everything that shows up in patent filings makes it to market. But with DigiTimes reporting that Apple is launching a "22-inch touch-enabled all-in-one PC" before the end of 2010, I'll be saving my dollars for another Apple all-in-wonder. ●

Susie of US-based *Mac|Life* likes clouds because it means rain, which means snow in the Sierra Nevada, which means snowboarding.

>> BROWSER WARS

Safari takes on Firefox

Apple browser now supports extensions

Safari 5.0.1 now runs extensions, which can be found on Apple's new Safari Extensions Gallery.

Safari extensions for Twitter, Microsoft's Bing, eBay and the *New York Times* all appeared on the launch of the browser feature.

Bing's Jeff Henshaw said, "The Bing Extension for Safari brings Bing search intelligence to everyday browsing with *Safari*. When a user selects text in the browser, Bing instantly recognises what they might need and pops up helpful, informative tips, from real-time maps and driving directions to real-time translations and direct web-search results."

Apple first introduced extensions support in *Safari 5* in June so developers could begin creating extensions. Built using HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript, *Safari* extensions are digitally signed and sandboxed (kept in a secure area on your system) in order to preserve security.

The amount of extensions currently available is not as rich as can be found at the *Firefox* community, but already, available extensions include tools to translate, share, email and ad block.

The Safari Extensions Gallery is accessible from the *Safari* menu or at extensions.apple.com. You can download extensions from the Gallery as well as from individual developer sites.

Safari 5 also features Safari Reader, which presents articles on the web in a new, scrollable view without distracting content or clutter. See our tutorial on page 62 for more on extensions in *Safari*. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

29%

US consumers considering a Verizon iPhone.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

It's been a grinding year. The post credit crunch rally started in March 2009 and since May 2010 the stock markets have gone into a bear market with a nasty correction. This marked the limit of Apple's share price rise. Following this, Apple's stock performed quite unpredictably, with little crashes and booms, while stuck in a range.

It is hard to imagine Apple going up much more as it's already the second most valuable stock in America; and it seems silly for them to turn into the most valuable business in the USA – however amazing the company.

Meanwhile, Apple is making money and all products appear to be doing well. Even though Apple is collecting competitors, it is hard to see how, in the short term, anyone can beat them – even though Google appears to be making inroads with its Android. No one, as yet, seems to be close to knocking off any of Apple's reflective shine.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> CRIMINAL ACTS

Scandal rocks Apple

Employee charged with taking illegal payments

One of Apple's high-level Apple supply managers has been charged with money laundering and other criminal activities designed to support his scheme to take bribes from suppliers.

Paul Devine pleaded not guilty to money laundering and wire fraud charges after prosecutors said he received at least $1 million from half a dozen Asian suppliers for providing information.

It is claimed that, through an elaborate system of bank accounts and a front company, Devine took payments in exchange for sharing confidential data, including sales forecasts for unreleased iPod and iPhone models and sales reports.

Devine earned approximately $100,000 per year from his work at Apple, which involved purchasing components for the company's mobile products.

The rogue employee transferred nearly $537,000 between bank accounts in May, according to an indictment.

Asustek/Pegatron-owned Kaedar, South Korea's Cresyn and Singaporean Jin Li Mould Manufacturing were all named in the action.

Apple uncovered the scam in April this year, when the company found a database of emails relating to the case on Devine's company laptop. Investigators went through these to find that between February 2007 and his August arrest, Devine received significant payments from six suppliers, which he shared with accomplice, Andrew Ang, who was a former employee of Singapore's Jin Lee Mould Manufacturing. Ang is now on the run, with the US authorities in hot pursuit.

Asustek's Pegatron division went on to immediately suspend the head of a Chinese unit in response to Apple's accusations, but said the manager had thought she was engaged in a legitimate commercial relationship. ●

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Beautiful
MENU

Apple's fortune slipped into the wrong hands... but not for long.

>> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

13 OCTOBER

AD:TECH LONDON
21-22 September
Apple's in advertising now, so don't be surprised to see it around at the next interactivity-focused Ad:Tech show.

MACFORMAT issue 227
13 October
We'll be taking an in-depth look at everything Apple-related as we head through the autumn.

G2E, Las Vegas
16-18 November
This international gaming event is among the most important on the industry calendar, as it acts as the pre-Christmas launchpad for new titles.

CES, Las Vegas
7-10 January 2010
This year's CES sees Apple's section expanding from a humble 4,000 to an immense 25,000 square feet next year. Will Apple be exhibiting here next year?

MACWORLD CONFERENCE AND EXPO, San Francisco
25-29 January 2011
Apple remains absent at its traditional annual San Francisco event, a hotbed of new products and services for OS X and iOS.

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When we reviewed it last issue, our only real complaint was a paucity of Mac instructions, but this has now been remedied; check out the online tutorial at **www.speednets.co.uk/support**.

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» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text JANUS, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
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- Competition closes on 12 Oct 2010.

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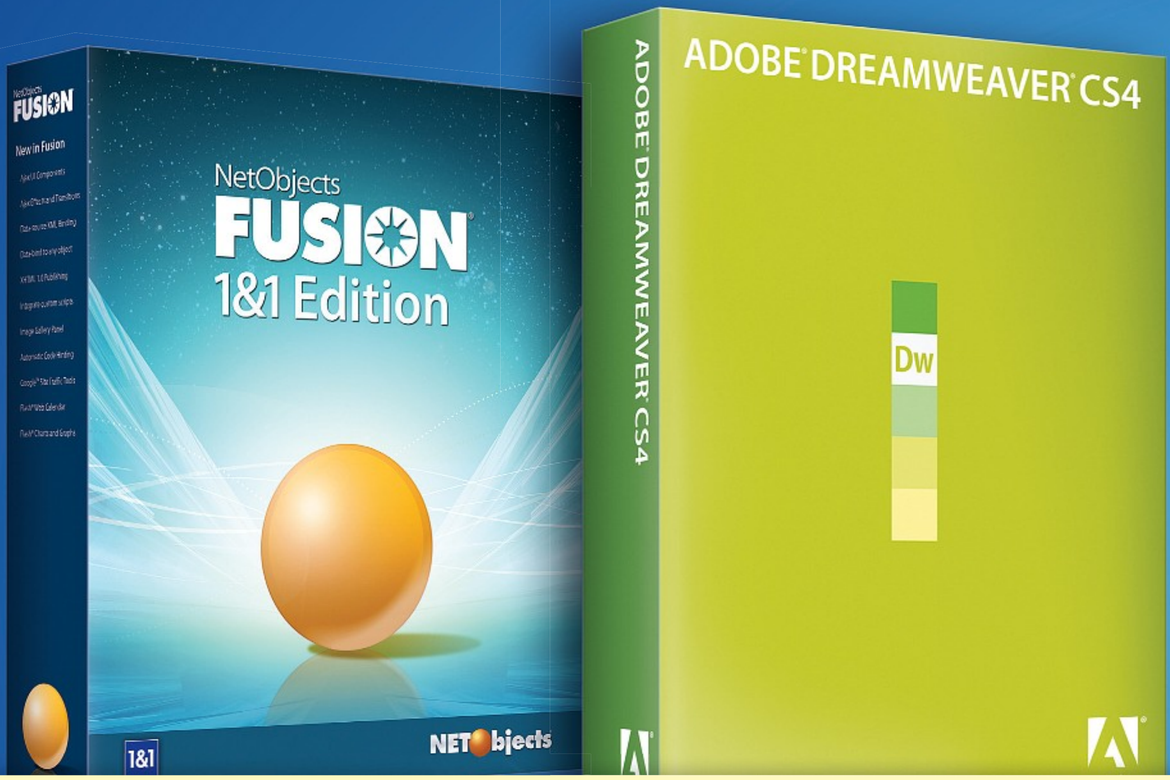

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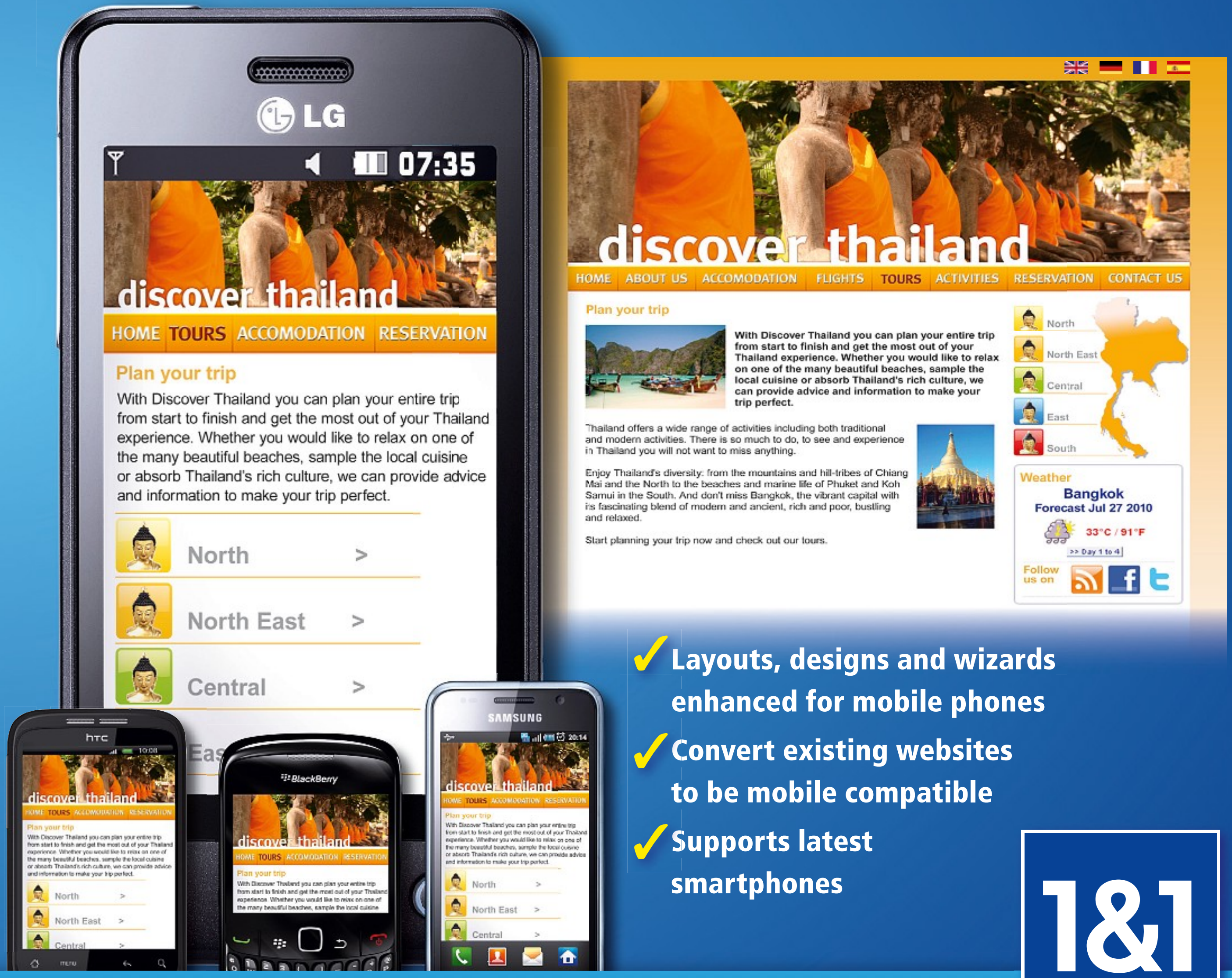

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MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

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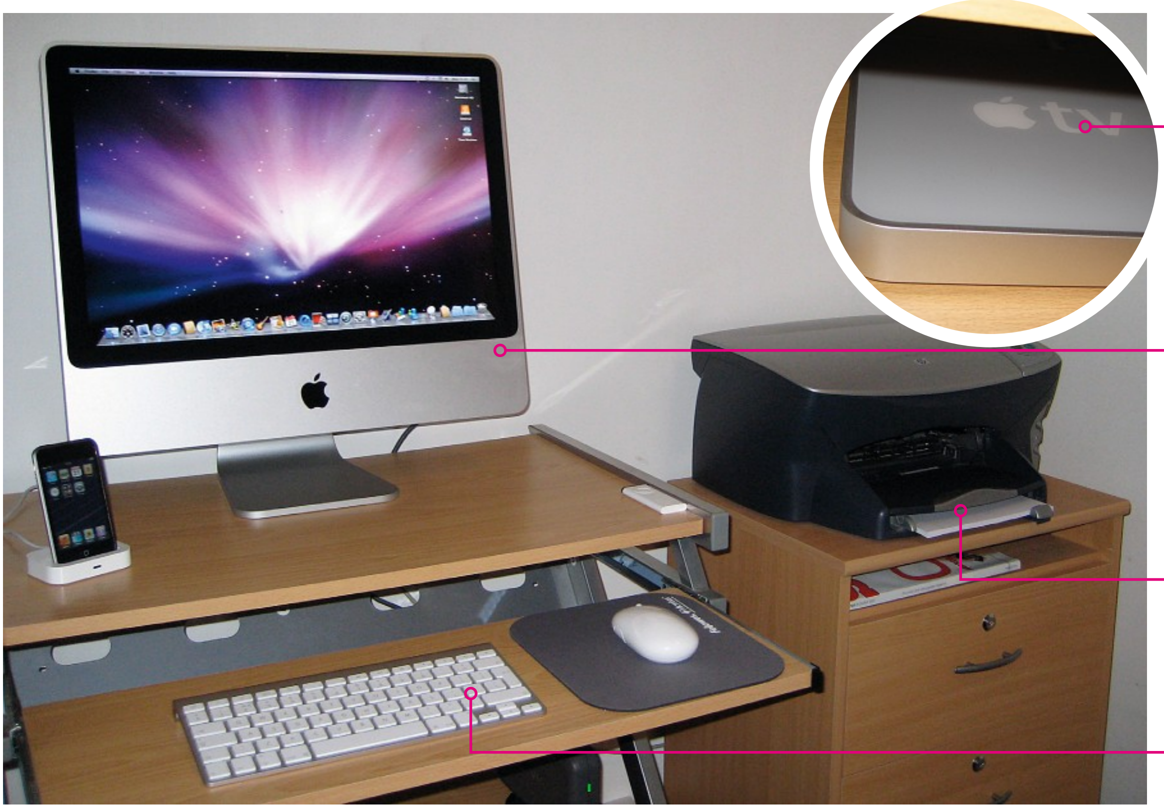

Apple TV
Apple's self-proclaimed 'hobby' product certainly has its admirers; Michael is also quick to sing its praises.

21.5-inch iMac Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz
Just how does all that power fit in such a thin space? Only Apple knows.

HP PSC2175 All-in-One printer
Scanning, copying, printing – Hewlett-Packard honed these tasks over decades.

Apple keyboard and Mighty Mouse
Apple's Bluetooth keyboard makes input a cinch; the Mighty Mouse, not so much.

>> PROFILE
Name: Michael Smith
Occupation: IT professional
Been using a Mac for: Two months
Favourite hardware: iMac
Favourite software: iTunes

There's nothing quite like introducing a PC-using friend to the Mac, but being on the receiving end of said introduction is even better, as IT professional Michael Smith well knows: "I first started looking into buying a Mac when one of my friends recommended them to me last year," he tells us.

But what was it that impressed him enough to switch to the rival platform? "I liked the stability of the operating system and the design of the Macs," he says. "The aluminium casing on the iMac is just gorgeous! I'm really glad I made the switch." A resounding endorsement from Michael there; truthfully though, what does he think of PCs now he's eloped? "I find PCs are okay for my work and I still have a notebook with Windows XP installed, but for tasks at home, I find the Mac does the job better!" Michael has also discovered the role that the Mac often adopts for its users: "It's the hub of my digital life. It keeps me in touch with friends because it comes with all the tools necessary to keep everything organised and easily accessible."

> *"My favourite software is iTunes. I like the convenience of being able to search my library with keywords"*

So if a Mac alone can be all these things, chances are that further hardware additions will extend the benefits – at least that's the line of reasoning most of us take, often leading to investments in other Apple products. How about Michael? "I also have an Apple TV, which is a good way of getting my media into the lounge," he says. "That way I can easily show people my photos and movies without them having to crowd around the computer." Clearly the *iLife* suite of apps has made Michael's life easier, but we would be wrong to presume that's where his real passions lie. "My favourite Mac software is *iTunes*," he reveals. "It's such a good media manager. I like the convenience of being able to search through my entire library using keywords – I can find what I'm looking for almost instantly."

Efficiency wins here then, raising the question: what would Michael most like to complement his setup? "An iPhone," he admits, "because although I have an iPod touch, it'll be great to have an iPod converged with my mobile so I can carry less with me when I go out." Which just goes to show, you can't part a Mac user from their *iTunes* library for long. ●

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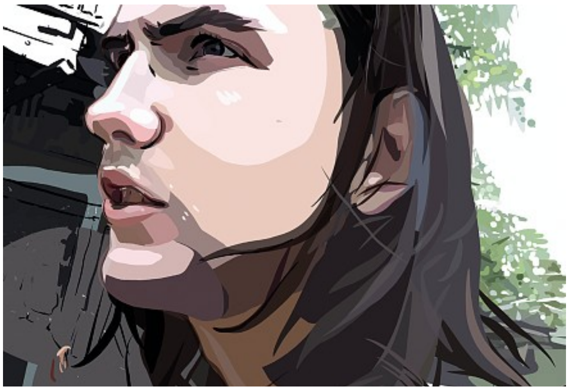

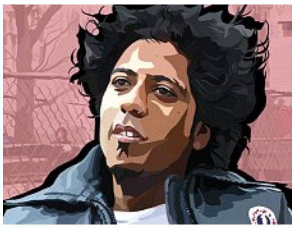

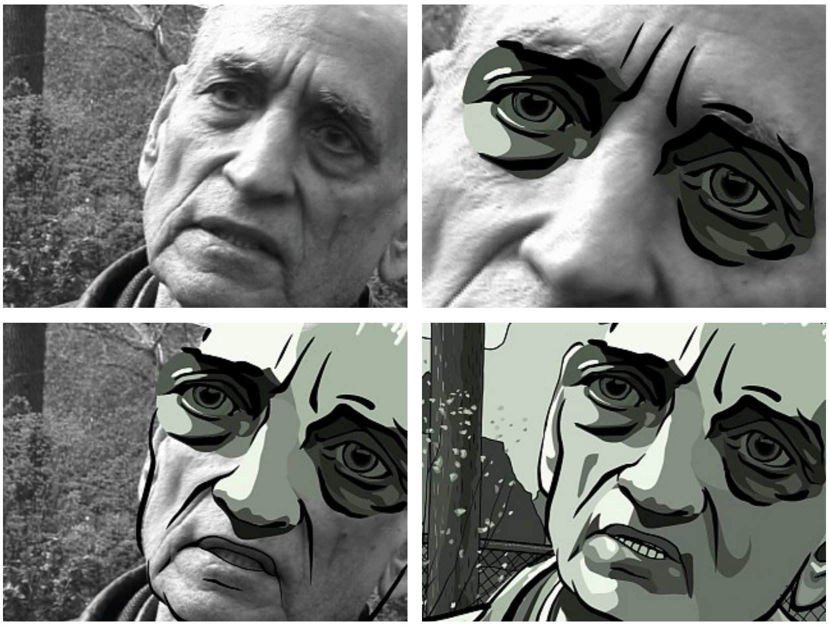

Above Ryan Power in The Even More Fun Trip (2007). **Right** Life360 was made for a PBS television show. **Far right** Grasshopper short, which screened at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival.

I use my Mac for rotoscoping

Waking Life and A Scanner Darkly animator Bob Sabiston explains his Mac-based craft

>>PROFILE

Name: Bob Sabiston
URL: www.flatblackfilms.com/Flat_Black_Films/Home.html
Occupation: Animator, computer programmer
Mac system: 24-inch iMac

MacFormat: What is rotoscoping and how did you get involved?
Bob Sabiston: Rotoscoping is basically hand-tracing over video. It used to be done with tracing paper, film and a lightbox. Now it's done with graphics tablets and digital video footage. I think I got kind of burned out on the laborious 3D animation I was doing back in 1994 and wanted to try something different, more spontaneous, easier.

MF: You created Rotoshop, the world's first rotoscoping app, on Mac OS. What makes the Mac ideal for this kind of work?
BS: I've always used Apple Macs – ever since my exams in high school, in fact. But that said, current-day Apple iMacs with their giant screens do make for excellent and inexpensive animation workstations.

MF: What impact has the iPad had on your work?
BS: It hasn't had any impact on our animation – yet. Perhaps soon we will be producing content for it, I don't know. However, lately I've really been getting into programming other types of stuff for the iPad/iPhone. I've got two apps, *Voxel* and *Headspace*, which are much better on the iPad with all of its screen real estate! They are creativity apps – one for building LEGO-like models and one for 3D mind-mapping. I actually don't want to do a drawing or animation app for it – I just don't like drawing with my finger and sliding it across glass.

MF: You've worked on big films such as *A Scanner Darkly*. What is your take on Hollywood?
BS: Hollywood seems like this very insular system. They make all these $50 million animated movies and some of them work, some of them don't. But we could quite easily make a cool-looking movie for so much less – say around $4 million. You would think it easy to organise, but it doesn't work that way – it's as if Hollywood thinks the movie will be worthless if it *doesn't* cost $50 million. So, I think they could try making one less big movie and instead put that money into 10 or so cheap, experimental ones every once in a while.

MF: Where do you think the future of rotoscoping lies?
BS: I don't think it will ever be a huge thing, but it will probably always be around in some form. I personally would like to keep doing it. It's fun, and when it is done well I feel like the artistic results can be just as interesting as what Pixar does. ●

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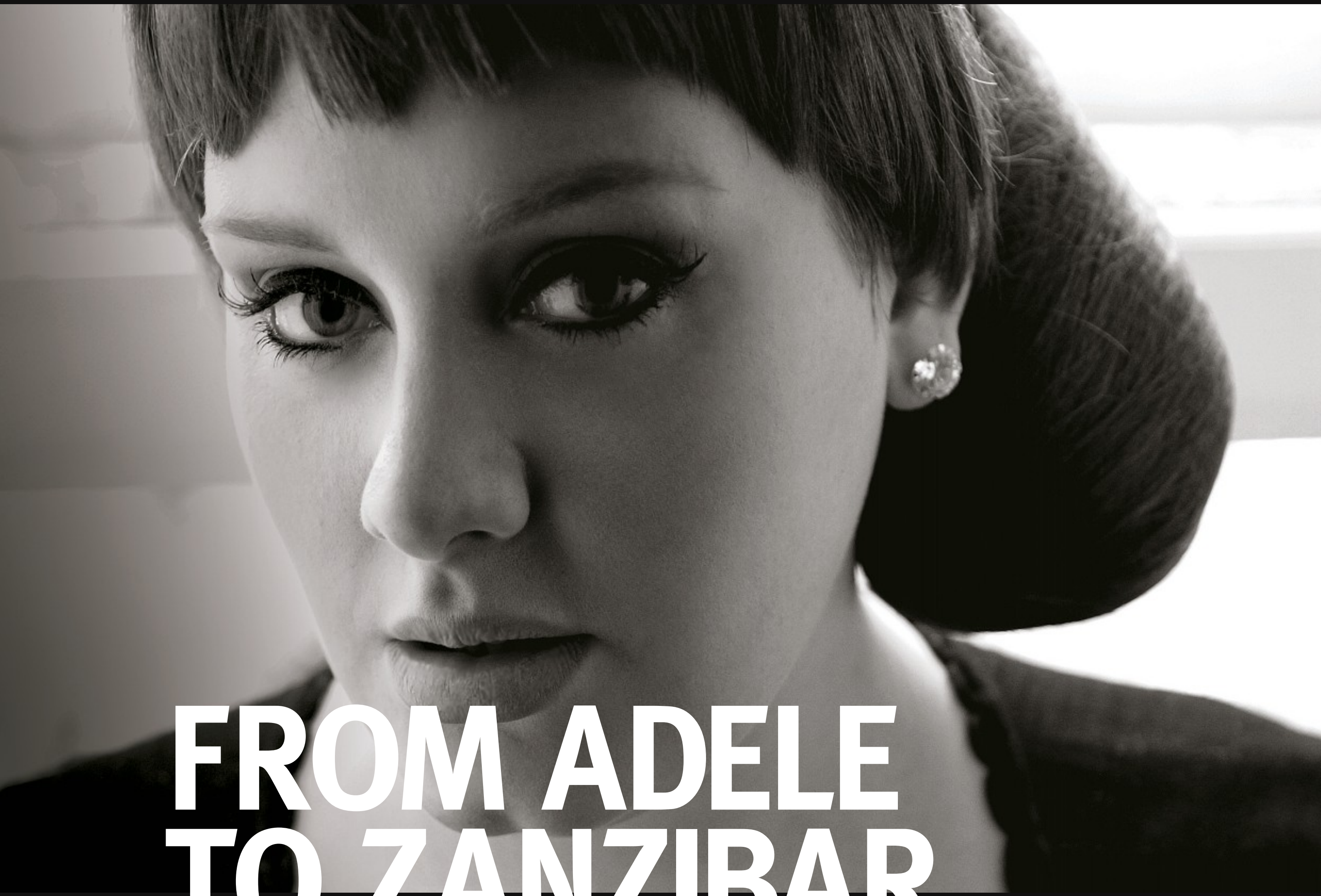

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Gadgets

The hottest kit, coming soon.
Here's what Apple is up against

◀ Blackbox i10 Earphones

£80 www.blackboxonline.com

What is it? These noise-cancelling earbuds for the iPod and iPhone feature Phitek Systems' Active Noise Rejection technology. They connect through the 30-pin dock connector instead of the headphone socket, drawing their power from the device. So unlike other noise-cancelling earphones, no batteries are needed.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? According to Blackbox, the i10s are capable of 'cancelling 92% of background noise', which is great if you're listening to your sounds in a noisy environment, like the *MacFormat* office.

▶ Panasonic HDC-SDT750 3D Camcorder

£1,500 www.panasonic.co.uk

What is it? According to Panasonic, it's 'the world's first 3D shooting camcorder'. The HDC-SDT750 is supplied with a 3D conversion lens that records right-eye and left-eye images simultaneously, each at 960x1080 pixels. You can record your own 3D movies and watch them at home on your 3D-capable TV.

When's it due? Buy it now.

Why are we excited? Who wouldn't be? We could have hours of fun throwing things past the camera, and watching everyone flinch as our mischievous missiles seem to fly out of the TV set.

▲Canon X Mark 1 Mouse

£40 www.canon-europe.com

What is it? This Bluetooth 1200DPI laser mouse can also be used as a calculator, and a numeric keypad for your MacBook; or indeed your iMac, now they're sold with small form factor keyboards. It's available in white or black.

When's it due? You'll have to wait until November of this year.

Why are we excited? A lot of thought has gone into this one. It has a high-resolution 10-digit display for your calculations, it can be locked to stop you accidentally pressing the number keys when using it as a mouse and it's made from recycled Canon photocopiers to help save the planet. It's also pretty damned cool.

◀ Undercover Gadget Sleeves

From £9 **www.gadgetshop.com**

What is it? These laptop sleeves are designed for the security-conscious. Walk through town with one under your arm and the local villains assume it's just a tatty padded bag, not realising it contains your valuable MacBook. Undercover Gadget Sleeves are padded, waterproof and can also be written on.

When's it due? Order online now.

Why are we excited? As well as fooling the thieves, Undercover Gadget Sleeves are pretty snazzy in their own right. They fit all sizes of MacBook Pro, and there's even a mini version for iPhones.

▼ Jackpot Slots iPhone Dock

$40 (around £25) **www.newpotatotech.com**

What is it? Now here's a dock with a difference! Not only does Jackpot Slots charge and sync your iPhone and iPod touch, it also transforms your device into a fruit machine. Just download the free Jackpot Slots application from the iTunes Store (currently US only).

When's it due? It's only out in America at the time of writing, but a UK launch is planned.

Why are we excited? It looks great fun. Developer New Potato is working on a range of what it calls 'Appcessories', with the next one being a pinball dock. We can't wait.

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£40 **www.xtand.net/upstand.html**

What is it? A 'high-style desktop stand for iPad'. It's precision-engineered from aluminium, with rubber supporting grips to hold your iPad steady. It's compatible with most iPad cases, and is ideal for watching movies or (along with a wireless keyboard) serious typing.

When's it due? Launched last month.

Why are we excited? It's a lovely-looking stand that complements the iPad beautifully. If you use your iPad with a wireless keyboard then a stand is essential, and this is an excellent one at the right price.

Feedback

>> CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

One to One

Back in Issue 224, we investigated Apple's One to One training program.

I am writing in response to your article in the August issue of *MacFormat* about the One to One Apple training. I have recently retired due to health problems, so back in May my wife and I went to Bath to do some shopping. We came across the new Apple Store, so went in to have a look, and had an impressive demo of a Mac mini. We left the shop and went and sat on a bench, and talked about the Mac. My current PC needed replacing, as it can no longer be upgraded, so I went back into the shop and purchased the Mac mini and the One to One lessons you recommended.

We went home, and I set up the Mac and went online to book my first lesson, which was quite straightforward. I prefer the early-morning start of 8am: it's less busy and therefore quieter. I was a bit apprehensive as to what form the training would take, as during the past 24 years I've had several different PC training packages. Owning a Mac for the first time, I thought it would be quite daunting – but your article was spot on. To date I have had eight lessons with five different trainers (the last one with Rex, who featured in your article!) and they all have the same training methods: I control the mouse!

I have found the staff in the Bath store most helpful, friendly, supportive and knowledgeable. Well done Apple! It's not just a store – it's a learning centre too. And after 24 years with a PC, I certainly am a Mac convert.

Chris Hall

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the email, Chris. It's great to hear that you're really getting something out of your One to One training sessions on the Mac – they certainly are the best way to learn, and at £79 for as many as you can fit into a year, they also represent great value for money.

iTunes solution

I was just reading your Star Letter this month (issue 224) from Tim Deans. I was reading

>> STAR LETTER / Secure cure

Firstly, I'd like to say that I'm a long-time *MacFormat* reader. My first issue came with *Wolfenstein 3D* (shareware) on floppy disk and, when I moved out of my parents' house in 2000, I took out my own subscription, and have been hoarding the issues ever since. I have used my back issues to troubleshoot friends' Macs, teach them how to better use their applications and even create a few switchers.

The day I got my iPad, issue 224 came through my door the same day, and I saw the letter discussing *MacFormat* subscription PDF back issues. Then *iBooks* was updated to include PDF files, which I used to put all the available back issues onto my iPad and iPhone 4. Then, to my surprise, issue 225 arrived with a step-by-step guide. Thank you for this excellent subscriber feature, but my wife has just one request: can you please release some more back issues on PDF, so she can get a couple more shelves of the bookcase back.

Once again, thanks for a great magazine, full of great features for all levels of Mac user.

David Millar

MacFormat replies: It's really good to hear you're enjoying reading *MacFormat* on your iPad, David. As a quick reminder – all *MacFormat* subscribers can get access to the Subscriber area of our website, where you can download the PDF version of each issue. These can, of course, be viewed on an iPad, or even an iPhone, using Apple's free *iBooks* app.

The archive of back issues on the website stretches all the way back to issue 200. But I'm afraid we'll have to disappoint your wife, David – currently we have no plans to go back even further!

>> STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

the bit where he said he had to purchase all his *iTunes* music again after having his Mac stolen. He doesn't have to if he emails Apple about his problem – they will reactivate all his purchases again for free. He has to be really nice about it and they will do it. They did it for me! If he signs into his *iTunes* account on his new MacBook or Mac, and goes to history, he can take a screen grab and send it to them or give them his *iTunes* details. Please can you forward this onto him; it's such a shame he thinks he has to spend all that money again.

Jason Content

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the tip, Jason. The best way to contact Apple about *iTunes*-related issues is to open *iTunes* on your Mac and scroll to the bottom of the main Store page, then click on Support.

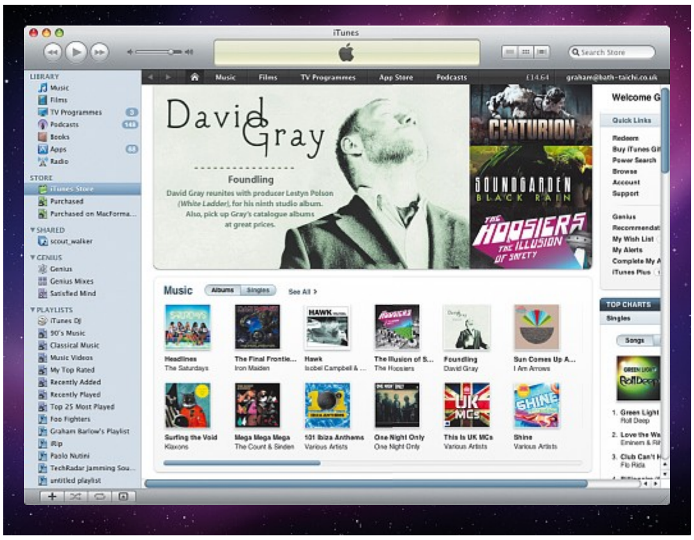
Voice recorder

I am a doctor and would like to record patients' histories (with their permission of course) to use for teaching. Please can you suggest a good-quality portable voice recorder, which will save the files for use on Windows as well as Mac, since I sometimes have to use Windows at work.

David Bateman

MacFormat replies: The obvious suggestion from *MacFormat* magazine is the iPhone – it comes with a voice recorder built in, and works with Macs and PCs. Alternatively, get an iPod and purchase a voice recorder microphone add-on. Companies like Griffin and Belkin produce versions of these for a range of different iPods. Make sure you buy one that says it's compatible with the version of the iPod you have – Apple publish a guide that shows which version you own here: http://support.apple.com/kb/ht1353.

An example of a typical voice recorder for a third-generation (3G) iPod is the McAlly iVoice Pro, which we reviewed back in Issue 209 and gave four stars. The original iPod touch does not support voice recording. The iPod touch 2G and iPod touch 3G work with some external microphones, including the Apple earphones with a remote and mic (provided as standard with the 32GB and 64GB configurations of the iPod touch 3G). You'll need an app like *QuickVoice Recorder* to do the recording with – find it at the App Store.



If your Mac is stolen and you want to reclaim iTunes purchases, talk to Apple.

Webcam advice

I purchased a top-spec Mac mini in May this year and despite the obvious disappointment of seeing Apple's graphics upgrade within weeks, I'm really happy. I upgraded from a Windows laptop, and run the mini through my Samsung HD LCD monitor. My question is: what webcam is compatible? I used to use *Skype* to call my parents in Portugal. Apparently Apple doesn't support the drivers needed to use webcams, other than the ones on their own displays. Is this correct?

Daniel Savill

MacFormat replies: It's not. If you choose any webcam that's UVC (Universal Video Class) compatible then it should work with your Mac when plugged into a USB2 speed port, without installing any drivers. This is because from OS X 10.4.9 onwards, the Mac has supported UVC, which is also used by Windows Vista and Windows 7. Our default answer to the question of which webcam to choose, tends to be "anything by Logitech" since these seem to be the most compatible with Mac.

Mac upgrade

I read the article 'Upgrade your Mac' in Issue 224 with great interest, as I have an Imation M-class solid-state drive (SSD) that I couldn't get to work in my MacBook (13-inch, white 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo) at all! I could write to it just fine if it was used as a USB device connected

Voice Memos
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June 1,2008
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MENU

Turn an iPod into a voice recorder with the Macally iVoicePro.

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
Would you buy the rumoured 7-inch iPad mini?

@danielpholt
"The best thing about the iPad is its screen size, why would I want to downsize that? It's a thing of beauty."

@fligabob
"I probably would because (hopefully) it'll be cheaper and have a better exchange rate. Without VAT the iPad should be £300 but isn't."

@RTPeat
"Wouldn't buy a 7-inch. Reason? Just spent over £500 on a current iPad!"

@AndersUK
"Yes of course, as it would be even closer to a Star Trek PADD! Price point is a key factor as I have iPhone4 and iPad. Size is appealing."

@IOwnAniPad
"No, I want a 9.7" iPad with a front-facing camera for FaceTime."

@Dave_Piper
"I'd have one! Fits nicely in my lineup: 13" MacBook and a 7" iPad (to replace my iPod Touch)."

@pebble8
"Yes, I'd get the 7" iPad but it would have to be priced sub £250 and have 3G and minimum 32GB storage."

@Allosunshine
"Yes, I could give it to the kids to play with so I might be able to use the one I have now."

UPGRADES / Blu-ray and the Mac

I purchased my first Mac (an iMac G5) in 2005 and was happy with it. I used it to make DVDs, which my partner sent to Brazil so his family could view our holiday films. Apple was then a leader in the movie and DVD field.

My old iMac has since died, but I now have a MacBook Pro. I held off getting a new iMac, mainly because I would like to be able to burn the movies to Blu-ray. I have been a subscriber to *MacFormat* for a few years now and have noticed how *MacFormat* occasionally appears to be frustrated by the absence of Blu-ray options for Macs. Could you advise what my options are? I have indicated a few options, but you will have far better ideas!

1. Be patient and wait.
2. I have heard *Toast* may offer Blu-ray burning.
3. Is there the possibility to have an external Blu-ray burner? Would additional software be needed?
4. Abandon Mac and get a PC with Blu-ray-burning capabilities.

I recognise access to high-definition films on a web-based platform is possible, but presumably the viewer needs fairly fast broadband for smooth viewing and also there's the issue of being caught by download caps. Your advice is welcome.

E N Gate

MacBook Pro

It appears Apple sees HD downloads as the future for watching movies.

MacFormat replies: We'd like to think Apple will one day support Blu-ray, but the fact it hasn't yet, when it should have done by now, doesn't bode well.

You can indeed burn data onto Blu-ray discs using *Toast* and an appropriate external drive, but there's no support for Blu-ray in OS X, so no ability to read the discs. Apple seems more focused on digital downloads as the future of movies. If you buy an HD movie from *iTunes*, you can start watching it before it has finished downloading. But if your broadband is capped you might not be able to download too much.

to the MacBook, but nothing could get the system to see it mounted when inside the laptop. Disk utilities just wouldn't recognise it, even if I formatted it as a Mac disk via the USB disk device and then remounted it inside the laptop.

I checked with Apple about the SSD drive, but didn't get much information. Though it looks as if I've missed the size requirement. I bought a 32GB size since I thought that would be more than enough for the way I use my laptop – Apple list the 60GB SSD as the smallest option! I can tell you not to buy the 32GB SSD, but I still don't see why it shouldn't work.

Robin LeClair

MacFormat replies: We definitely think solid-state drives represent the future for the Mac – they have no moving parts, so aren't prone to the faults that can plague today's hard disks, resulting in crashes and data loss. Right now, SSD drives are still on the expensive side, but the price is coming down all the time. Like you though, Robin, we can see no reason why a 32GB drive wouldn't work in a MacBook. The size shouldn't have anything to do with it. We've actually seen OS X installed on an 8GB drive!

The iPad fits neatly into Apple's increasingly impressive product line-up.

Unreal computer

I have just read Johnny Winter's letter in issue 225, describing how his iPad has usurped his wife's netbook as the dominant convenient device in his home. My story is the other way around.

My partner and I own two netbooks and two iPhones, and we have just purchased a Mac mini as our TV media centre. A couple of months ago, I was in the market for an ultra-portable computer to take notes, surf the web and take away with us on holiday. I use *EverNote* as my main note-taking software, so needed to be able to type easily.

I looked at the iPad and felt it could be cumbersome, since typing notes requires the device to be flat or supported on your lap. Also, the lack of industry-standard software means its functionality is restricted.

I opted for a Samsung N150 netbook. Its battery life is amazing and by putting it to sleep when I'm not using it, I get the same, almost instant-on experience as with the iPad. I would love an iPad for its looks and wow factor, but I don't think it's in the same league as a 'real' computer.

Steve Rose

MacFormat replies: The iPad occupies the middle ground between an iPhone and a 'real' computer. But how closely have you looked at the iPad? It's easy to dismiss it without getting your hands on it and having a play around. Its inability to stand up on its own is an issue, but can be addressed with a case. ●

CORRECTION

Rather than 4 stars, the Onkyo HTX-22HDX reviewed in issue 225 should have received a 5-star rating, with a MacFormat Choice award.

Thanks to Mr Philips for spotting an error in issue 225's scanner group test. The images shown for the Canon CanoScan 5600F and Canon CanoScan LiDE 200 were unintentionally flipped. The winner of the test, the LiDE 200, should appear as in the image shown here.

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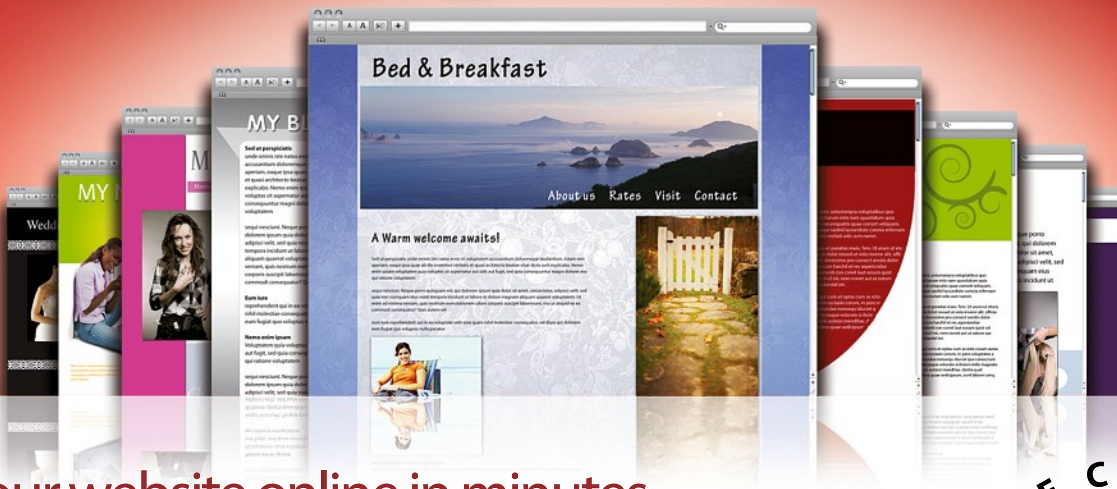

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MacFormat investigates

Has Apple killed the mouse?

Words: **Ian Osborne** Photography: **Simon Lees**

We lock our reviews editor's mouse in a cheese cupboard for a month to see how he gets on using Apple's new Magic Trackpad alone...

The Magic Trackpad (see my review on page 91) is a multi-touch trackpad aimed at desktop Macs. It brings all the familiar iPhone and iPad gestures, like pinch and swipe, to a desktop environment. Although Apple hasn't pitched it as a potential mouse killer numerous pundits, bloggers and commentators predict the imminent demise of the mouse at the hands of this new device. But are they right? Will the Trackpad gradually take over from the mouse as the Mac owner's favourite desktop controller? As I tore the shrink wrapping off the box I was very sceptical, but definitely looking forward to a month without a mouse. It was 30 days that would (for me at least) settle the issue once and for all.

Day One

First impressions are very good. The Magic Trackpad looks great next to my iMac's aluminium keyboard. Build quality is excellent and its glass surface is smooth enough to let my fingers glide over it, but not so friction-free that it's awkward to click. By default, the Trackpad's secondary click (the equivalent of a right mouse-button press) is achieved by clicking down with two fingers. Since I generally prefer to use a laptop trackpad's right-hand corner for a right-click, the first thing I do is switch to this option in the Trackpad's *System Preferences* pane. This doesn't last long. Unfortunately, it proves awkward due to the size of the Magic Trackpad, which is 80% bigger than the MacBook's trackpad. I soon find myself back at the preference pane to revert to two-finger secondary clicks.

Time to fire up an application. *iPhoto* is designed to play nicely with gestures, so this is as good a place as any to start. And it feels responsive. The gestures I associate with using *iPhoto* on your Apple notebook are just as easy to use here. Swiping my way through a photo collection is as easy as ever, and having the pinch/unpinch gestures to hand for zooming in and out is a real boon. Rotating is a little trickier, however. It's functionally the same as in the MacBook (which involves thumb and forefinger twisted as if you're opening a screw-top bottle), but I seem to have to make a bigger gesture to get it to work properly. I soon get used to it, but again, it's tricky at first.

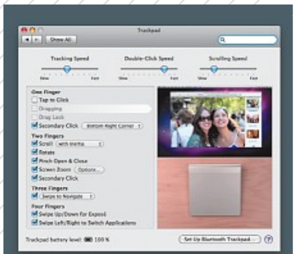
After a few minutes with *iPhoto*, another out-of-the-box problem becomes apparent. Tracking is way too slow, and dragging my finger the entire width of the Magic Trackpad only takes the mouse pointer three quarters of the way across my iMac's 21.5-inch screen. Thankfully, this too is easily remedied. Back in *System Preferences*, I increase the Tracking Speed using the slider. I can now cover the entire Desktop without lifting my finger from the Trackpad.

Day Three

The Magic Trackpad is becoming instinctive now, and I'm not reaching for the mouse out of habit, or even wishing it was there. It's like wearing a new pair of shoes – very refreshing, but in need of wearing in. I've put the Magic Trackpad to the test with a variety of everyday apps. Web browsing in particular benefits from the now-second-nature gestures I have (quite literally) at my fingertips. Moving backwards and forwards through my browsing history is a simple three-finger swipe. At first, force of habit had me pressing the toolbar buttons, but the gesture is so much quicker and easier now I'm used to it. It's good to be able to enlarge or reduce the size

»

Look Mum – no mouse! Ian gets to grips with his first rodent-free desktop experience.


Trackpad
Tracking Speed
Double-Click Speed
Scrolling Speed
One Finger
☐ Tap to Click
☐ Dragging
☐ Drag Lock
☑ Secondary Click: Bottom Right Corner
Two Fingers
☑ Scroll: with inertia
☑ Rotate
☑ Pinch Open & Close
☑ Screen Zoom
☑ Secondary Click
Three Fingers
☑ Swipe to Navigate
Four Fingers
☑ Swipe Up/Down for Exposé
☑ Swipe Left/Right to Switch Applications
Trackpad battery level: 100 %

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Setting up your Magic Trackpad is easy. You'll need to be running OS X 10.6.4, and use the **Bluetooth** *System Preferences* pane or menu bar pull-down to pair your Magic Trackpad with your Mac. (It's recognised as a mouse.) When you're done, run *Software Update* to install the Magic Trackpad and Multi-Touch Update, and a new preference pane appears: **Trackpad**. Click, scroll and track speeds can be adjusted, and gestures can be turned on or off.

Apple's Magic Trackpad has been well received, but does it spell 'curtains' for the mouse?

at which the page is displayed too. It's not a feature I use much on a notebook, as I tend to be nearer the screen. But sat at my desk, when I come across a website that looks like the small print at the bottom of an insurance policy claim form, it really comes into its own.

The *Mail* experience is very similar to using Apple's emailing application on a MacBook, and *iTunes* also offers few surprises, good or bad. Word processing in *Pages* is straightforward too, with two-finger and three-finger swipes making it easy to navigate my way through large documents. Double- and triple-clicking to highlight words and paragraphs feels a little tricky to begin with, but I simply adjust the click speed and it helps. (Or maybe the clicker's a little stiff, as it's new.)

One thing that's proving easier on the Magic Trackpad than it ever was with a mouse is click-dragging items a long distance across the Desktop. With a mouse, if I need to drag something further than the mouse mat allows, I often have to lift and move the mouse without releasing the mouse button. It's the same principle on the Trackpad, but holding the clicker down and moving my finger across the pad's surface is much more comfortable.

The Magic Trackpad goes a fair way to making *Finder*'s Cover Flow view useful too. I've never been a fan of this feature. It makes sense in *iTunes*, where flicking through your album art has a real jukebox feel, and maybe in *Safari* when trying to find a recently-browsed web page whose title or URL you can't remember. But do you ever use it anywhere else? Me neither. Yet with two-fingered swipes to roll through a folder's contents and three-fingered gestures to move up and down a folder tree, Cover Flow view is so easy to manipulate and I'm tempted to use it more often.

Day Five

I have no complaints about using the Magic Trackpad for *iLife*, internet applications and generally using my iMac, but how does it cope with a traditional shoot-'em-up, a brain-off, button-down blaster that demands speed as well as precision? I load up Freeverse's *Kill Monty*, a *Smash TV*-inspired shooter where your movement is controlled using the keyboard, but you target your enemies with the mouse – or in this case, the Magic Trackpad. It works much better with the Trackpad than I expected. It's instinctive and responsive, and I was soon trashing wave after wave of foes. When things begin to get really frantic you can throw a grenade with a secondary click, but this proves a little less responsive than it should. Without an independent right mouse button to fall back on, I can't shoot and grenade at the same time.

Finally, I try a first-person shooter; time to boot up my trusty copy of *Doom 3*. I expected it to be near-unplayable, but things start surprisingly well. When walking from place to place, the Trackpad offers no real disadvantages over the mouse. Movement is smooth, responsive and above all, instinctive. After picking up my equipment a two-fingered swipe cycles through the weapons, which is less handy than it sounds. It's way too easy to do it accidentally, though I manage to get around this by switching off the Scroll gesture in the Trackpad preference pane. This function of the game is clearly intended for a mouse's scroll wheel. But the Magic Trackpad really falls down when the shooting starts. It lacks the speedy precision of a laser mouse. As the pace begins to pick up and things get frenzied, it becomes increasingly difficult to put a bullet between an oncoming zombie's eyes, and I find myself firing three or four

»

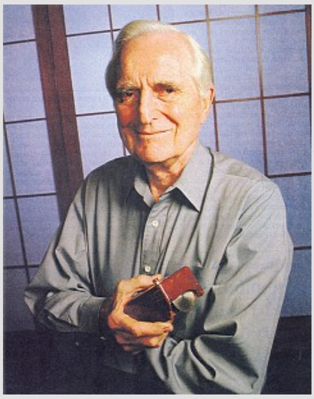
»HISTORY LESSON / How the mouse conquered the desktop world

The mouse has dominated desktop computing for over 40 years now. The first of its kind appeared way back in 1964, a year of unprecedented innovation for Douglas Engelbart's Augmentation Research Center at Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California. While working on the revolutionary hypertextual oNLine System, Engelbart's team felt the available hardware they were using restricted their ability to develop new and improved technologies, and a fresh way to manipulate information was sorely needed.

Engelbart's solution was the 'X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System'. With the connecting cable running tail-like from the rear, the device was nicknamed 'the mouse'. It used two separate wheels for vertical and horizontal movement, but was as cumbersome as its original name suggested.

The device was soon superseded by the ball mouse, created by Xerox PARC's Bill English. Replacing the wheels with rollers that contacted against the sides of a single ball proved a masterstroke, and the device soon became synonymous with Xerox's in-house Alto computer.

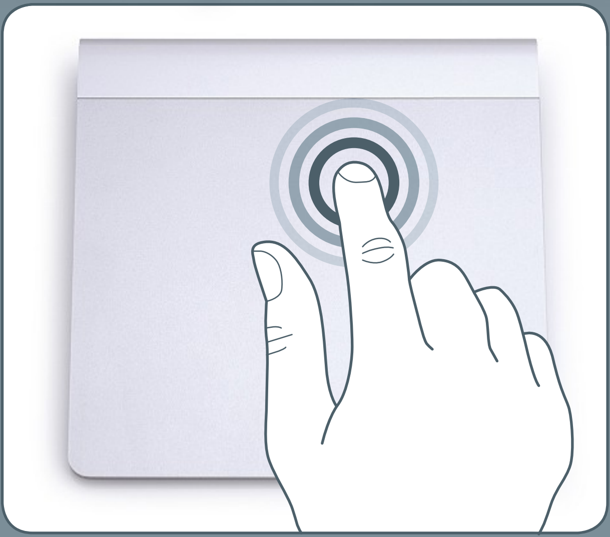
In 1979, the Apple team set eyes on the mouse during a visit to Xerox PARC. Taken by the device, they designed an interface around it. In 1984, a mouse accompanied the first consumer PC – the Apple Macintosh.


Douglas Engelbart, the father of the computer mouse.

Picture courtesy of SRI International, Menlo Park, California

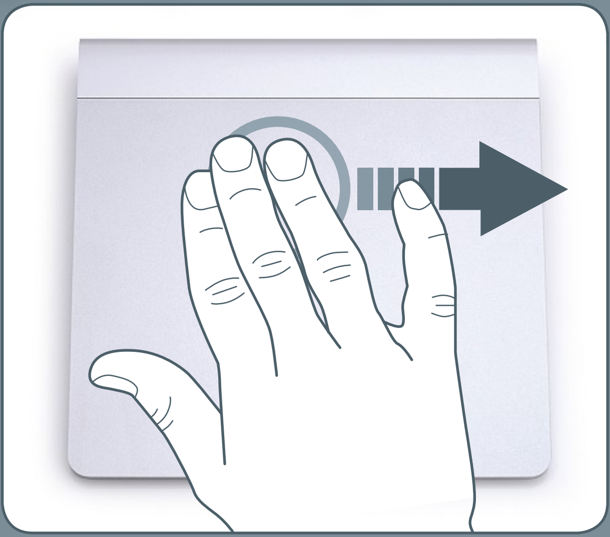
Trackpad gesture guide

How to get the most out of Magic Trackpad's unique abilities



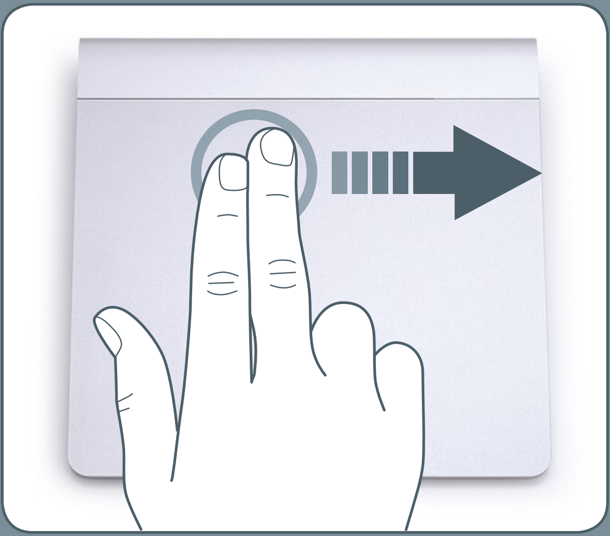
The click

The entire surface of the Magic Trackpad acts as a big mouse button. Press on any part to click. Double- and triple-clicks are catered for, and you can hold the button down to drag an item across the Desktop. In the **Trackpad** *System Preferences* pane, you can enable or disable the **Secondary Click** to give your Magic Trackpad the functionality of a two-button mouse.



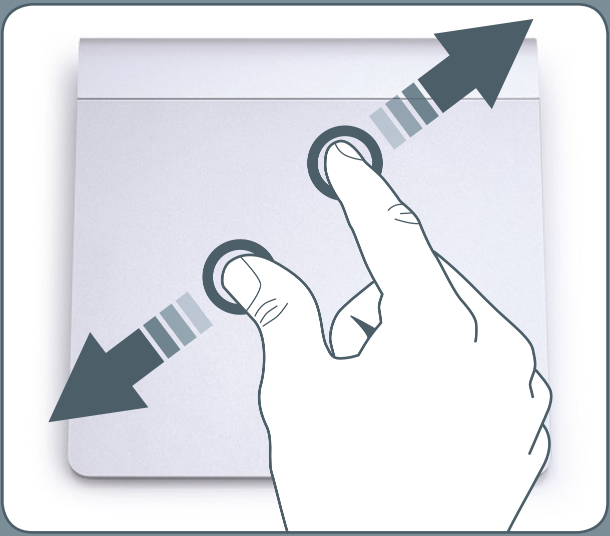
The swipe

With three fingers on the Trackpad, swipe right to move to the next page in your document, the next photo in your *iPhoto* album or forwards through your web surfing history. Swiping left takes you to the previous item. It's surprising how quickly the swipe gesture becomes instinctive, and how much you miss it when using a machine that doesn't have it.



The scroll

By brushing two fingers along the Magic Trackpad's surface, you can scroll in any direction; vertically, horizontally or even diagonally. It's great for when that web page is bigger than your *Safari* window, or for scrolling through a large document. You can also opt for inertial scrolling, which refers to when the scroll carries a little momentum after you lift your fingers.



The pinch and unpinch

With your forefinger and thumb placed on the Trackpad as above, pinching (bringing them closer together) shrinks an image or document, and unpinching (moving them further apart) zooms in. It's great for photo editing, or merely enlarging a specific detail. It works on the web too. If your site of choice is hard to read, unpinch to enlarge the page.

BEYOND MAGIC TRACKPAD / What are the alternatives to Apple's new device?

Wacom Cintiq 21UX

A pressure-sensitive graphics tablet gives computer artists a greater degree of control than a mouse or trackpad. The Cintiq 21UX is the Rolls-Royce of tablets, with a large-format, 21.3-inch screen built into its surface.

Gyration Air Mouse GO Plus

Gyration Air Mouse GO Plus uses motion-sensing technology. Control the pointer by waving the device in the air; it's ideal for when you don't have a desktop to rest your mouse or Trackpad on.

Wacom Bamboo

The Wacom Bamboo combines pen tablet technology with multi-touch functionality. As well as being great for computer artists, it also incorporates gestures similar to those offered by Apple's new Magic Trackpad.

KeySonic Wireless Mini-Keyboard

This one's an interesting fusion of a Mac keyboard and a touchpad. The trackpad area is small and there are no gestures, but it's a neat way of controlling a TV media-centre Mac from your sofa.

shots at his chest instead. It's instinctive and comfortable in general, but after dying in the middle of a level that I usually would have completed without difficulty, I realise I miss my trusty mouse. After this performance, one thing's for sure: the Magic Trackpad will never be a hard-core gamer's controller of choice.

Day Twelve

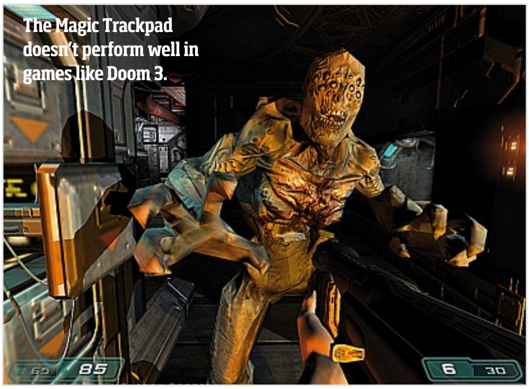
Thankfully I'm not an RSI sufferer, but *MacFormat*'s own Craig Grannell has mild RSI and owns a Magic Trackpad, so I asked him for his thoughts on the device. "My RSI isn't noticeable if I'm using the right tools and have reasonable posture," he said. "If either isn't right, I soon notice my right arm and neck becoming stiff, and my back starts complaining." But does the Trackpad help?

"It beats a mouse, because the hand is in a more natural position. Gestures and taps require less exertion than clicks, and the swiping significantly beats the awkward, semi-painful gestures you use with the Magic Mouse." So does he recommend Magic Trackpad for RSI sufferers? "It certainly beats using any mouse I've tried to date, but it lags behind using a Wacom stylus-based tablet, such as the Bamboo."

For my first week or so with the Magic Trackpad, I found the opposite was true. Prolonged use of the Trackpad made my hand and wrist ache in a way the mouse never did. Although the hand was held at a comfortable angle, holding my fingers off the Trackpad to avoid accidentally activating gestures took its toll. However, 12 days in, this is no longer the case, and I can use the Trackpad all day without a problem. Perhaps I'm getting used to the new position, or have developed better technique over time.

Day Twenty

I'm almost three weeks into my mouse-free month, and it's amazing how instinctive the Magic Trackpad has become over that time. Swiping to scroll or page through documents is now so natural and free-flowing, I hardly realise I'm doing it. Double-clicking is far easier now the clicker is less stiff than it was out of the box, and it's finally giving just the right amount of resistance. Clearly you need to give the device time to realise its potential.

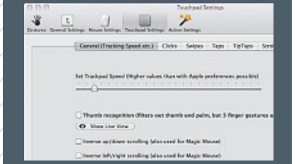

The Magic Trackpad doesn't perform well in games like Doom 3.

Day Thirty

I deliberately refrained from cleaning the Trackpad during the month to see how badly it picked up grease and dirt, and thankfully, it hasn't soiled much at all. A quick squirt of computer cleaner and a wipe-over with a dry cloth, and it's as good as new.

But the big question is, will it kill off the mouse? Personally, I don't think so. Useful as the Magic Trackpad is, there are some things for which the old-school controller is much better suited, most notably gaming and graphic design. I won't be sticking with it as a replacement for my mouse, but I'll keep it on my desktop because it complements it well. Its versatile gesture controls can greatly enhance your computing experience, so why not have the best of both worlds? With the Magic Trackpad sitting next to your mouse, you can switch from one to the other at your convenience. Maybe Apple will ride with this, and incorporate Trackpad technology into a keyboard? Just a thought.

The mouse isn't dead; it's just gained a new pal. ●



DID YOU KNOW THIS?

When the Magic Mouse (Apple's latest mouse) was first released, it was quickly followed by several third-party apps, giving the new gesture-powered device wider functionality. Several have added or are planning to add Magic Trackpad compatibility in the future. Be sure to check out *MagicPrefs* at **www.magicprefs.com**, *MagicDriver* at **www.plentycom.jp/en/magicdriver/index.html** and also *BetterTouchTool* at **www.boastr.net**.

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- Breathable padded mesh back panel includes air flow channels for maximum comfort
- Tough water-resistant fabric
- Dual-position stability strap adapts to either right- or left-sided carrying
- Organiser pockets centralise accessories for quick, easy access
- Easy to open side-release buckles hold main flap securely closed
- Expandable pleated pockets stow cords or adaptors
- Zipped ticket pockets keep documents handy
- Mesh side-pocket fits a full-sized water bottle

99 SNOW LEOPARD SECRETS

Words by Ben Harvell

Snow Leopard has many features, but are you using them to the full? Time to get more from OS X 10.6…

With version 10.6, OS X has got to the point where it has so many great features that it's almost impossible to know all of them. Steve Jobs loves to show off the latest OS X bells and whistles during his keynotes whenever a new version is released, but even he doesn't have time to share the more subtle tips and tricks.

OS X 10.6, also known as Snow Leopard, is chock-full of secrets and shortcuts that you're expected to discover by yourself. Fortunately you don't have to pick your way through the OS hunting for techie tidbits because we've gathered up 99 of the best of them for you here. Whether you're after tips to make your backups easier, ways of working smarter in *Finder* or saving time when using the internet, they're all here for you over the next few pages. Each set of tips is divided into sections, so you can find the type of shortcut you're after. You'll also find an icon next to each tip for quick reference.

We're willing to bet that even the most seasoned Mac user won't have used half of these cunning techniques on their machine. With this huge selection of tips at your disposal, prepare to speed up the way you work on your Mac forever. »

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Finder Preferences
General
Labels
Sidebar
Advanced
Show these items on the desktop:
☑ Hard disks
☑ External disks
☑ CDs, DVDs, and iPods
☑ Connected servers
New Finder windows open:
apple
☐ Always open folders in a new window
☑ Spring-loaded folders and windows
Delay:
Short
Medium
Long
Press the space bar to open immediately

Finder and the Desktop

Dock managing, app switching, menu bar tweaking, file searching…

» QUICK TIPS

Spotlight reveal

Searching for files in **Spotlight** is a handy way to access the documents you need in a flash, but it opens them by default. If you don't want to open the file hold the key and click on it to reveal it in the *Finder*.

Force magnify Dock

If you have Dock magnification turned off but fancy using it every now and again, hold down ctrl and ⇧ while you move the cursor across it for some ad-hoc magnification.

Icon size slider

Try using the little slider found at the lower right corner of *Finder* windows in icon view. Dragging it to the right will increase the size of the icons within it, which is ideal for browsing images.

Resize the Dock

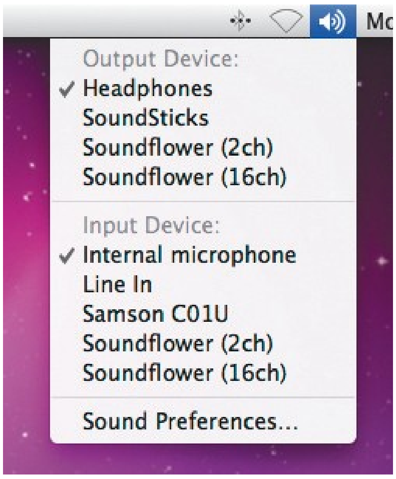
The quickest way to adjust the Dock's size is to click and hold your cursor on the bars between Stacks and your apps. Move the mouse up or down.

Show Item Info

Keep an update of your disk space on the Desktop. Right-click your Macintosh HD on the Desktop, click **Show View Options** and turn on **Show Item Info**.

Extra menu bar info

Common items on your menu bar such as Bluetooth, AirPort and MobileMe Sync can be quickly checked on with a simple click to view a drop-down menu full of options. If you want a little more detail from these menus, hold down the ⌥ key while clicking for an advanced view. MobileMe Sync will show you the status of each sync, which includes Mail, Contacts and Calendars; AirPort will give details of your current connection, as will Bluetooth, and you can set your audio inputs from the volume control.


Output Device:
✓ Headphones
SoundSticks
Soundflower (2ch)
Soundflower (16ch)
Input Device:
✓ Internal microphone
Line In
Samson C01U
Soundflower (2ch)
Soundflower (16ch)
Sound Preferences…

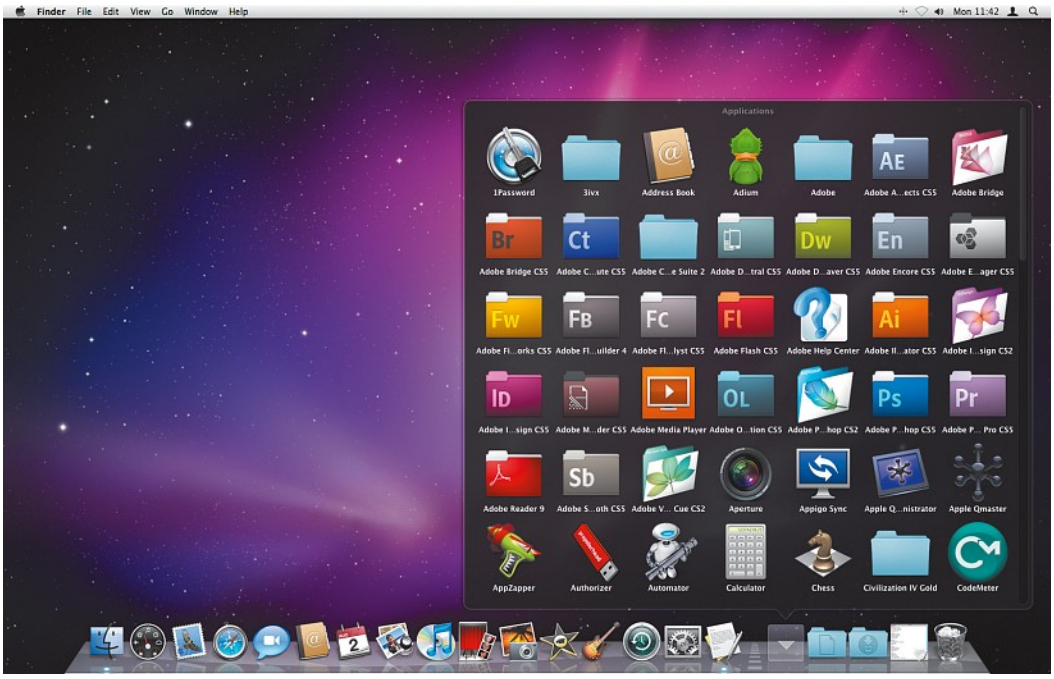
Using the ⌥ key with the menu bar offers new information on a variety of devices.

Add any folder as a Stack

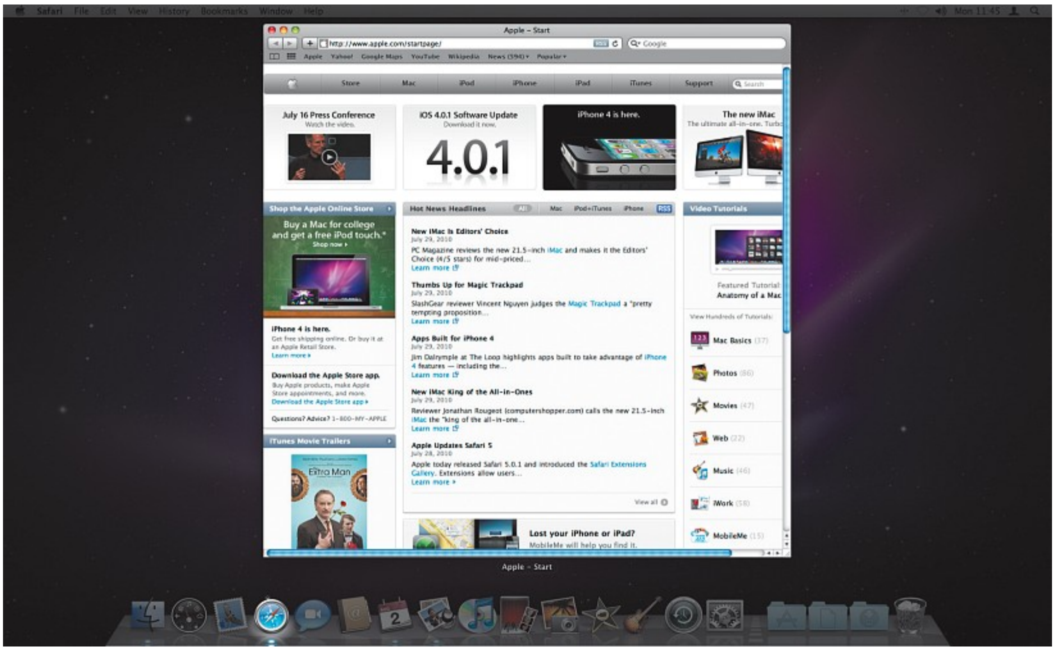
Stacks are a really handy way to access files and folders from your Dock, but did you know that you're not limited to just Downloads and Documents? Try dragging any folder to the same position on your Dock and it will automatically be turned into a Stack. Why not try dragging your Applications folder to your Dock and using it as a handy way to access all of your applications – it's much faster then using the *Finder*. If you want to remove a Stack from your Dock, simply drag it off and watch it disappear in a puff of smoke.

Built-in screen grabs

Capturing an image of your screen can be important for many reasons, whether you need to snap an error message for tech support, record a receipt page on the web or simply save an image. You could use *Grab* in your Applications/Utilities folder, but why not just hit ⇧+⌘+3 for a fullscreen grab and ⇧+⌘+4 to select an area of the screen to grab. If you hit ⇧+⌘+4 and then [Space] you can grab a single window too. Grabs taken this way will be stored on the Desktop, so keep your eyes peeled for them.


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Mon 11:42
Applications
1Password
3ivx
Address Book
Adium
Adobe
Adobe A...ects CS5
Adobe Bridge
Adobe Bridge CS5
Adobe C...ute CS5
Adobe C...e Suite 2
Adobe D...tral CS5
Adobe D...aver CS5
Adobe Encore CS5
Adobe E...ager CS5
Adobe Fi...orks CS5
Adobe Fl...uilder 4
Adobe Fl...lyst CS5
Adobe Flash CS5
Adobe Help Center
Adobe Il...ator CS5
Adobe I...sign CS2
Adobe I...sign CS5
Adobe M...der CS5
Adobe Media Player
Adobe O...tion CS5
Adobe P...hop CS2
Adobe P...hop CS5
Adobe P... Pro CS5
Adobe Reader 9
Adobe S...oth CS5
Adobe V... Cue CS2
Aperture
Appigo Sync
Apple Q...nistrator
Apple Qmaster
AppZapper
Authorizer
Automator
Calculator
Chess
Civilization IV Gold
CodeMeter

You can have easy access to all of your applications from the Dock by adding the applications folder as a Stack.



If you regularly have a lot of application windows open, you can more easily switch between applications using Exposé.

App switching with Exposé

Exposé offers a handy way to see all of the windows you currently have open, whether you're using Active Screen Corners or one of the keyboard commands. When using Exposé you can also switch between individual apps by pressing the ⇥ key. Each time you press ⇥ the view switches to open windows of a particular open application, enabling you to quickly find the window you need and access the application.

Stationery Pad

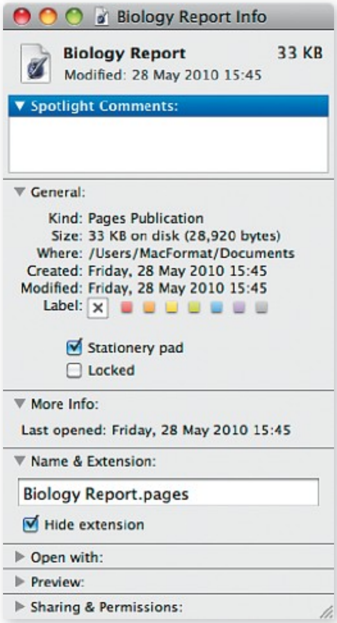
Do you have a document that you use as a template on a regular basis? If so, why not select it and hit ⌘+I or choose **Get Info** from the **File** menu. Under the **General** section of the **Get Info** screen, click the **Stationery Pad** option to create a copy of the file every time it's launched. You work on the copied version so you never overwrite your original. This tip is ideal when used with text documents and can make it easier to send the same letter to a group of people.

Customising Dock items

Apple includes a number of applications on your Dock by default but you probably won't use all of them that often. If you would rather limit the number of items on your Dock, simply drag apps away from it to remove them. The reverse is also true: simply drag an application onto the Dock, making sure it's between two apps, and it will happily sit there waiting for you to launch it. You can also click and drag apps to new locations on the Dock.

Open With…

Files on your Mac launch their default application every time you open them, such as *Text Edit* for TXT files. But you can change this behaviour for particular documents if you wish. Choose a file and select **Get Info** from the **File** menu then use the **Open With…** drop-down menu to pick the app you want the file to open in. Here you could tell a TXT file to open in *Microsoft Word* rather than *Text Edit* if you wanted.



Biology Report Info

Biology Report 33 KB
Modified: 28 May 2010 15:45

▼ Spotlight Comments:

▼ General:

Kind: Pages Publication
Size: 33 KB on disk (28,920 bytes)
Where: /Users/MacFormat/Documents
Created: Friday, 28 May 2010 15:45
Modified: Friday, 28 May 2010 15:45
Label: ☒

☑ Stationery pad
☐ Locked

▼ More Info:

Last opened: Friday, 28 May 2010 15:45

▼ Name & Extension:

Biology Report.pages
☑ Hide extension

▶ Open with:
▶ Preview:
▶ Sharing & Permissions:

If there's a document you use regularly, make it a template with Stationery Pad.

Recover ignored software updates

Sometimes the Mac's *Software Update* utility pops up when you don't have time to look at it. While there are some essential updates required when the app appears, it's easy to click **Ignore** and forget about it. If you do this, then realise you needed the update, open *Terminal* from the **Applications** folder and type **softwareupdate > reset-ignored** to recover it.

» QUICK TIPS

Add an icon to Finder windows

Is there an app, file or folder you use regularly? If you want it within easy reach at all times, why not drag it onto a *Finder* window next to the search box so you can launch it from there?

Clean up Desktop icons with a click

If your Desktop begins to look a little cluttered and messy, simply right-click or ctrl+click on it and select the **Clean Up** option from the menu that appears. Your icons will now move to nice orderly positions in the blink of an eye.

Quick Alias Access

Take some of the hassle out of connecting to a shared computer, server or folder by ctrl-clicking it and creating an alias. Now move this alias to your Desktop or Dock and connect to it with a quick double-click.

Quick Look Magnify

When you're viewing an image in **Quick Look** you can turn your cursor into a magnifying glass by holding down the ⌥ key. Click the image to zoom in and hold down ⇧ and ⌥ when clicking to zoom out.

Activate fullscreen Quick Look mode

Rather than pressing [Space] to invoke **Quick Look** when you have a file selected, use ⌥+[Space] to open it in fullscreen mode. It's perfect for viewing a whole photo; ⌥-click on an image to zoom in, and ⇧+⌥-click to zoom out. »

Hidden settings

Mac OS X System Preferences just got a whole lot more options

>> QUICK TIPS

Navigate Spaces

Rather than use the menu bar to switch between Spaces, set a keyboard shortcut in *System Preferences* so you can switch Spaces using the arrow keys combined with ⌥, ctrl or ⌘.

Lock Screensaver

For some added security you can set a password for your screensaver that's applied each time it starts. Use **Security** in *System Preferences* to set this up.

RSS Visualizer screensaver

If you like the Word of the Day screensaver, how about an RSS feed version? Enter an RSS feed, from a blog to a Twitter account, into the RSS visualizer screensaver and enjoy.

CDs & DVDs

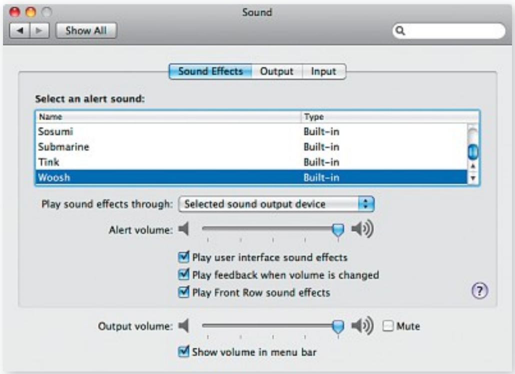
Tell your Mac what it should do when you insert a CD, DVD or picture CD using the CD & DVDs section in *System Preferences*. Setting *Front Row* to launch when a DVD is inserted can be useful.

Timed Desktop background

Liven up your Desktop background from the **Desktop & Screensaver** *System Preferences* pane by setting it to change over time.

Custom sounds

There are only a handful of Mac OS X system alert sounds available to you by default, but there's nothing to stop you from adding your own. Start by finding a short AIFF file or create one in *GarageBand*. The next step thing to do is locate the folder MacintoshHD/System/Library/Sounds and drop the file in there. If all goes to plan and the file you have chosen is compatible, it will be available from the Sound Effects tab under the Sound *System Preferences* pane for you to use as a system alert. There are also plenty of files to download from the web for this purpose.



Select an alert sound:

Name	Type
Sosumi	Built-in
Submarine	Built-in
Tink	Built-in
Woosh	Built-in

Play sound effects through: Selected sound output device

Alert volume:

☑ Play user interface sound effects
☑ Play feedback when volume is changed
☑ Play Front Row sound effects

Output volume: ☐ Mute

☑ Show volume in menu bar

Add your own alert sounds to the Mac OS X defaults.

Time Machine exclusions

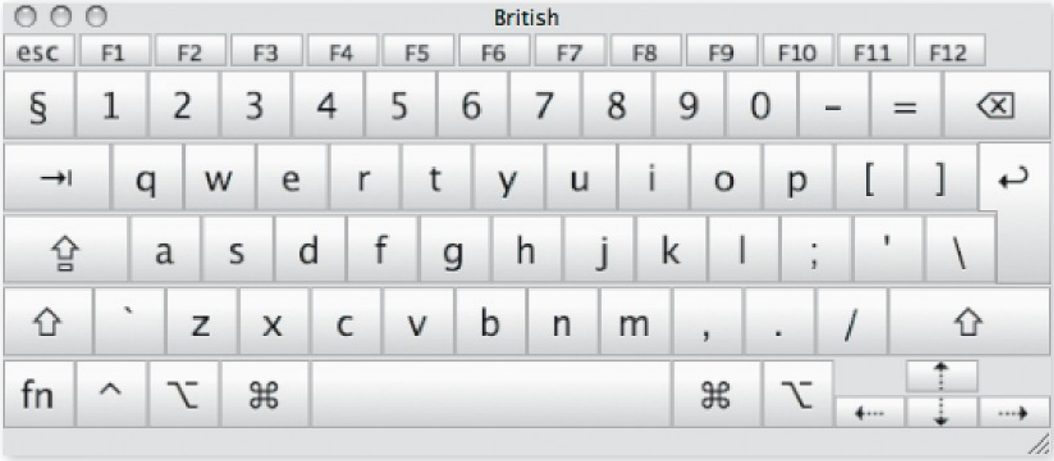
If *Time Machine* is using a lot of space or taking a lot of time to back up your computer, consider excluding larger files, such as movies from those you want to save. Say, for example, you own the DVD of a movie on your Mac; you already have a backup essentially, so there's no need to keep copies of it using *Time Machine*. Head to the Time Machine *System Preferences* pane and tell it which files to ignore by clicking on the Options button and selecting files.

Keyboard Viewer

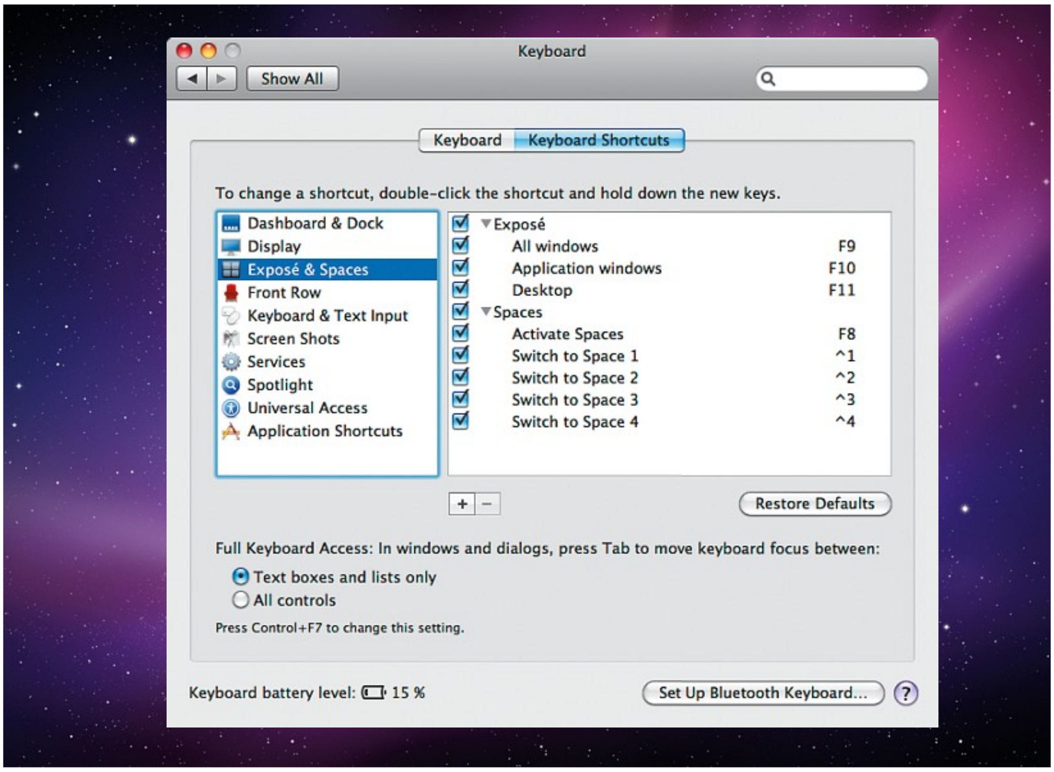
From the Keyboard *System Preferences* pane, you can choose to show the Keyboard and Character Viewer in the menu bar. Once turned on, a small keyboard icon appears on the menu bar from which you can launch the keyboard viewer. So why would you want to do this? Quite simply, this display is extremely useful when you need to use a particular character but can't quite remember the combination required. Holding down one or more modifier keys such as ⌥, ctrl and ⌘ shows the symbols invoked on each virtual keyboard key so you can select the right one. You may find it saves you a lot of time indeed.

DVD or CD Sharing

Did you know you can make use of the optical drive in your Mac from another computer? This is ideal for those using a MacBook Air or if you need to access a disk across multiple computers. From the Sharing *System Preferences* pane you can turn on DVD or CD Sharing, which will show a copy of the inserted disc to all connected Macs. Macs on your network can then make use of the disc as if it were in their disc drive. For more protracted, intensive use however, we would recommend using an Ethernet connection rather than Wi-Fi for disc sharing.


British
esc F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F7 F8 F9 F10 F11 F12
§ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 - = ⌫
⇥ q w e r t y u i o p [ ] ↩
⇪ a s d f g h j k l ; ' \
⇧ ` z x c v b n m , . / ⇧
fn ^ ⌥ ⌘ ⌘ ⌥

You can find obscure symbols quickly with the Keyboard Viewer - it can be made easily accessible from the Desktop menu bar.



To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.

- Dashboard & Dock
- Display
- Exposé & Spaces
- Front Row
- Keyboard & Text Input
- Screen Shots
- Services
- Spotlight
- Universal Access
- Application Shortcuts

☑	▼Exposé	
☑	All windows	F9
☑	Application windows	F10
☑	Desktop	F11
☑	▼Spaces	
☑	Activate Spaces	F8
☑	Switch to Space 1	^1
☑	Switch to Space 2	^2
☑	Switch to Space 3	^3
☑	Switch to Space 4	^4

Full Keyboard Access: In windows and dialogs, press Tab to move keyboard focus between:

● Text boxes and lists only
○ All controls

Press Control+F7 to change this setting.

Keyboard battery level: 15 %

Choose new shortcuts for your tasks from the vast range that can be altered from the System Preferences Keyboard pane.

Assign apps to Spaces

Once you get into the groove using Spaces it can prove to be a great time-saver and, if you're used to moving a particular application to a designated space, why not make sure it always opens in that space? From the Exposé & Spaces *System Preferences* pane you can assign an application to a particular space and it will appear here until you make a change, even after you have quit the application. Setting a space for web browsing and email is just one use for this technique. There are many more, depending on your usage.

System scheduling

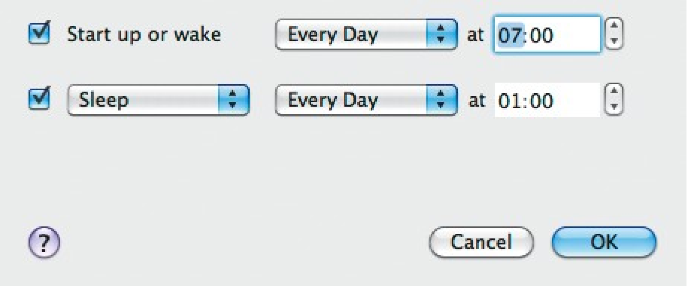
It's easy enough to just leave your Mac and let it go to sleep after a certain period of time, but in the name of energy saving, you might want to consider telling your Mac to take a break and turn off at a particular time every day. This can easily be done by clicking Schedule under the Energy Saver *System Preferences* pane, where you can set a specific time for your computer to boot up as well. Give your Mac a rest when you do to keep things flowing coolly and smoothly.

AirPort status

If you connect to a Wi-Fi network, it can be frustrating to keep jumping back and forth to the network settings to change base station or find out why you've lost your connection. By setting AirPort status to appear in the menu bar from the Network *System Preferences* pane you can check if your Wi-Fi is connected, see the strength of the signal and join new networks from your desktop. You also have the option to turn AirPort off and on from the menu bar.

Keyboard shortcuts

There are hundreds of keyboard shortcuts in Mac OS X and that's not even including the apps you run on a day-to-day basis. Get the lowdown on useful key combinations and set some new ones by heading to *System Preferences* and moving to the Keyboard Shortcuts tab under the Keyboard pane. From here you can view and switch on shortcuts for a range of utilities and Mac OS X settings, including Screen Shots, Spotlight, Dashboard and Dock and Display settings.



☑ Start up or wake — Every Day — at 07:00
☑ Sleep — Every Day — at 01:00

Set your Mac to shut down and boot up at certain times with Energy Saver.

» QUICK TIPS

Function key switch

If you're sick of accidentally turning your Mac's volume down when you're trying to use F11 to *Exposé* all windows, head to the **Keyboard** *System Preferences* pane and set your F keys to standard functions.

Mouse controls

Make the most of your Mighty or Magic Mouse by setting new controls for it from the **Mouse** *System Preferences* pane. You can apply a right-click or use momentum scrolling in order to quickly move up and down pages.

Analog Clock

Add a more retro feel to your time-keeping by choosing the **Analog Clock** option from the **Date & Time** *System Preferences* pane, which shows a clock face rather than a digital reading in the menu bar.

Wake for network

If you access files from another Mac on your network, you can avoid access problems if one of them goes to sleep simply by selecting **Wake for network access** from the **Energy Saver** pane in *System Preferences.*

More Recent Items

File
New
Ope

If you frequently use the **Recent Items** list - accessible from the Apple menu - to launch apps and open files, you can increase the number of items shown by changing the number in the **Number of Recent Items** option from within the **Appearance** *System Preferences* pane.

Useful tricks of the trade

Optimise your workflow and resolve problems with these neat tips

» QUICK TIPS

Minimize windows into application icon

Minimising lots of windows can clutter your Dock. Turn on **Minimize windows into application icon** in the Dock's *System Preferences* pane.

Screen Zoom

Combine a keyboard button with mouse scrolling to zoom in and out of your Mac's screen. Set it up from the **Universal Access** *System Preferences* pane under the **Seeing** tab.

Auto time zones

Automatically set the time based on your current location – turn on the feature found in the **Time Zone** section of the **Date & Time** *System Preferences* pane and turn AirPort on.

Quick iCal Events

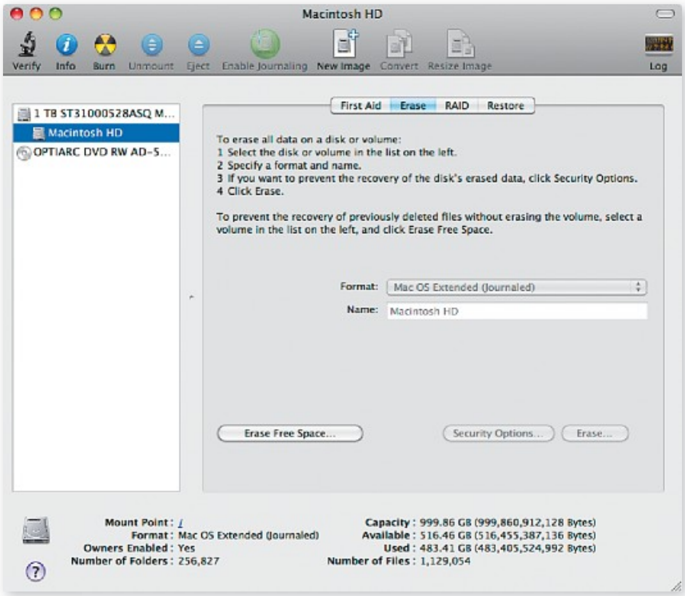
Rather than exporting *iCal* events or adding people to them within the app, drag an event from *iCal* to the Desktop. From here you can share the file via any method.

Startup app launch

Under the **Accounts** *System Preferences* screen you can set applications to launch when your Mac starts up, using the **Login Items** tab.

The way to wipe a thumb drive

If you've ever encountered a thumb drive that has stopped working or even fails to mount, you can likely fix it by reformatting it using *Disk Utility*. Plug in the drive and then launch *Disk Utility* from the Applications folder. It should still appear in the list of devices on the left of the screen so you can select it and then use the Erase tab to perform a quick wipe, and pick a formatting type to fix things up. Once this process is complete, give the drive a try – it should work properly again.



To erase all data on a disk or volume:
1 Select the disk or volume in the list on the left.
2 Specify a format and name.
3 If you want to prevent the recovery of the disk's erased data, click Security Options.
4 Click Erase.

To prevent the recovery of previously deleted files without erasing the volume, select a volume in the list on the left, and click Erase Free Space.

Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Name: Macintosh HD

Mount Point : /
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 256,827
Capacity : 999.86 GB (999,860,912,128 Bytes)
Available : 516.46 GB (516,455,387,136 Bytes)
Used : 483.41 GB (483,405,524,992 Bytes)
Number of Files : 1,129,054

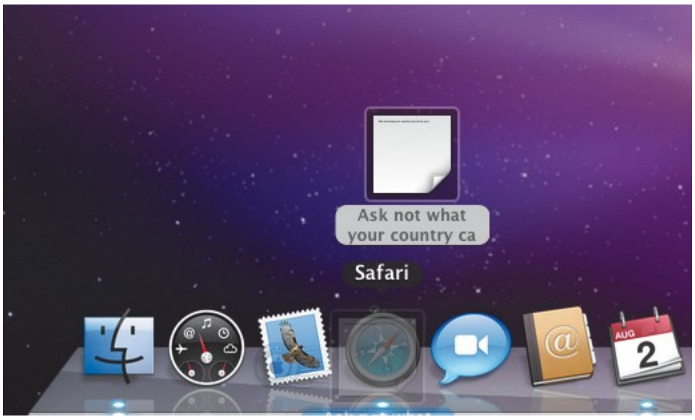
If a thumb drive isn't working, try wiping and formatting it with Disk Utility.

Stickies

Let's face it, Stickies are nothing new; in fact, they've been a part of the Mac operating system for years and haven't really changed a great deal in that time. If you've not tried them out, they're like a Desktop version of the *Dashboard* sticky note widget and provide you with a handy way to make notes or store snippets of information and reminders. However, you can make them more useful by turning them translucent and setting them to float above all other windows from the Note menu – that way you never lose them. You can access the *Stickies* app from the Applications folder. Check the menu bar for these options. There's no limit to the amount of Stickies you can have on your Desktop, so why not go crazy!

Record video in QuickTime

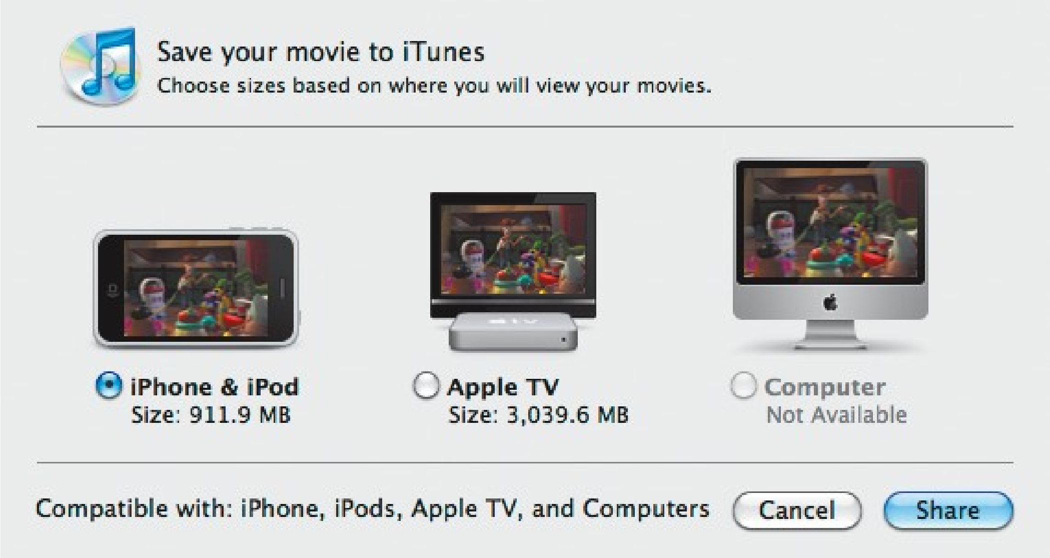
QuickTime X offers a few unique content creation features that are astoundingly easy to use. The first is audio recording, which will record any audio coming from your Mac's built-in microphone or connected device. Video recording works in the same way, making use of the built-in iSight camera. Finally, you can also record your screen as a movie to show others how to perform a particular process. All you need to do is head to the *QuickTime* File menu, where you can access these features and select your input devices using the drop-down menu.



Drag a block of text onto an app and see what happens – more options often ensue.

Drag text onto Dock icons

When you're viewing a website or text document – or even writing one – you can select a block of text and drag it out of your chosen application. If you drop this block onto the Desktop it will automatically create either a text or image clipping. What's more, though, you can drag these snippets onto application icons in the Dock to initiate specific actions. Dropping a block of text onto the

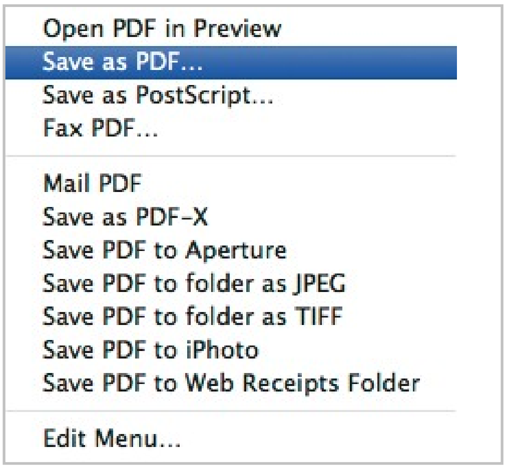

Save your movie to iTunes
Choose sizes based on where you will view your movies.
● iPhone & iPod
Size: 911.9 MB
○ Apple TV
Size: 3,039.6 MB
○ Computer
Not Available
Compatible with: iPhone, iPods, Apple TV, and Computers
Cancel
Share

Prepare a QuickTime movie for iPhone or iPad using the built-in features of QuickTime X. It couldn't be easier to convert!

Safari icon, for example, will search that text with Google. And dropping a block of text onto the *Mail* icon will add the text to a new message. Give it a go!

Share and trim your movies in QuickTime

QuickTime may have lost a few features when it became *QuickTime X* but it did gain a few tricks as well. One such bonus is the ability to export any movie that *QuickTime* can play to a format that plays nicely with iPhones, iPods and iPads. Click the share button to the right of the *QuickTime* playback controls and select a destination for your movie from *iTunes*, MobileMe or YouTube. You can also choose to trim your movie within *QuickTime* using an *iMovie*-esque scrubber system. From the application's Edit menu, choose Trim and the heads-up display will appear at the bottom of the video window, as well as a thumbnail strip. Drag to select any portions to cut.


Open PDF in Preview
Save as PDF…
Save as PostScript…
Fax PDF…
Mail PDF
Save as PDF-X
Save PDF to Aperture
Save PDF to folder as JPEG
Save PDF to folder as TIFF
Save PDF to iPhoto
Save PDF to Web Receipts Folder
Edit Menu…

If you don't want to print a document, save it as a PDF.

Sync Google And Yahoo! calendars

iCal now supports syncing of Google and Yahoo! calendars and it's easier than you might think to set up. Start by heading to the *iCal* Preferences screen and then click on the Accounts tab. From here, click on the + button at the bottom of the screen and select your chosen account from the Account type drop-down menu. Now all you need to do is enter your email address and password into the fields provided, and you're off and running with your new calendar events merged with your existing *iCal* dates.

Paste and match style

Don't you just hate it when you paste some text from another document into an email or text file and it brings its formatting with it? Fortunately, there's a simple workaround for most Mac applications that support text input, which will prevent this messy pasting problem from occurring. Instead of using ⌘+V to simply paste your copied text, use ⇧+⌥+⌘+V to paste the text and match it to the formatting of your document. This is an especially handy tip when you want to paste some text from the web straight into an email message.

Save as PDF

If you can print a document in Mac OS X then you can convert it into a PDF too. Next time you go to print a file from *Word* or any other application, click on the PDF button at the bottom left of the print screen. From here you can select where you want your document saved to, choose a new title, input author information as well as a subject and keywords. You can even apply security settings if the document is of a sensitive nature.

» QUICK TIPS

Change cursor size

Sometimes the Mac's typing cursor is a little hard to spot on the screen, but this can be easily fixed. From the **Universal Access** *System Preferences* pane under the **Mouse** tab, you can increase its size using a slider.

Quick screen dim

If you ever need to completely hide your screen – you're watching YouTube videos when the boss walks in and you should be working, for example – simply hit ⇧+ctrl+⏏ to reduce the screen brightness to zero.

Application switcher

You can quickly jump between open applications using the application switcher, which is invoked by pressing ⌘+⇥. Simply add ⇧ to the latter combination to move backward through your open apps.

Put Back Trash

If you move a file or folder to the Trash and later realise you need it to be returned to its original location, don't fret. You can simply right-click or ctrl+click on the file within the Trash and choose the handy **Put Back** option.

Show app from Dock

There is a way to quickly access all open windows for a particular application in Snow Leopard. All you need do is click and hold the application's icon in the Dock. From here you can also quit and hide the app, among other more app-specific options.

»

Handy OS X applications

Get more functionality from the apps in your Applications folder

» QUICK TIPS

Scientific Calculator

The default *Calculator* found in Mac OS X is a functional little tool but it has a more powerful side. If you choose **Scientific** or **Programmer** from the **View** menu, more advanced calculations can be made.

Migration Assistant

Don't worry about forgetting anything when moving files between an old and new Mac: make use of *Migration Assistant*. This often overlooked app enables you to move applications, settings, files and even entire user accounts between Macs.

Play movies from an external drive in Front Row

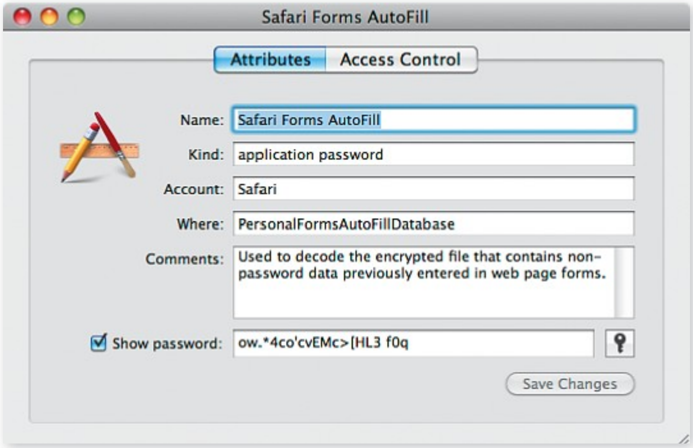
By default *Front Row* looks for movies in your Mac's **Movies** folder. If you want to keep your movies on an external drive, simply create an alias (ctrl-click and select **Make Alias**) to your external HD movies and add them to your **Movies** folder.

Add new fonts

There are thousands if not millions of free fonts on the web that you could be using right now. All you need to do to make them available in all your applications is drag them into *Font Book* and activate them.

Find a lost password

If you have noticed pop-ups that mention storing passwords in your keychain but don't really know what they mean, take a moment to get acquainted to *Keychain Access* in your Utilities folder. This is where Mac OS X stores all of your login passwords and more, and you can find a password you've forgotten from within *Keychain Access* too. Simply click on a keychain type from the pane on the left and then click on Passwords. Next, find the site or service you are logging into from the list, double-click it and then select the Show Password option.



Name: Safari Forms AutoFill
Kind: application password
Account: Safari
Where: PersonalFormsAutoFillDatabase
Comments: Used to decode the encrypted file that contains non-password data previously entered in web page forms.
☑ Show password: ow.*4co'cvEMc>[HL3 f0q

Lost a password? The chances are you can find it with the app Keychain Access.

Make the most of your remote

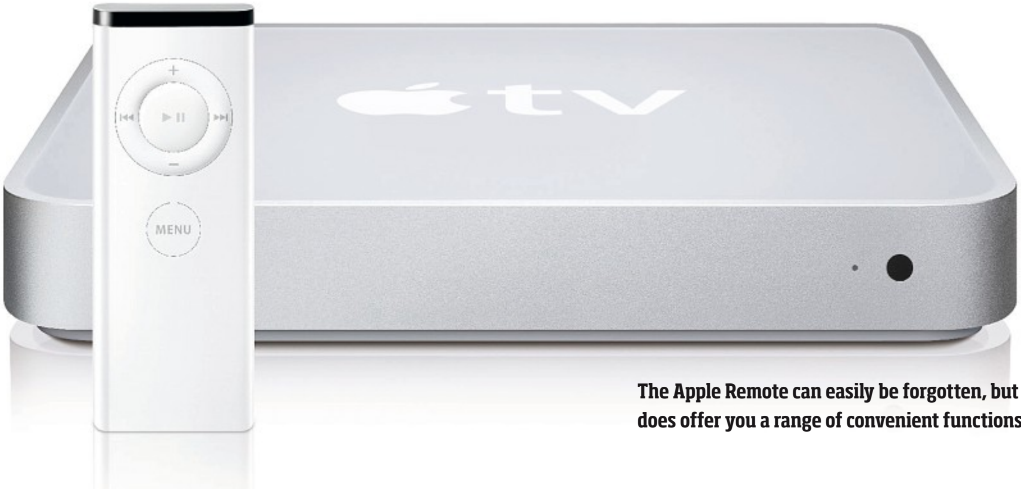
The Apple remote (both the old model, shown below, and the newer version), which used to come with desktop Macs and is now available separately, has some cunning tricks beyond simply controlling *Front Row*. Even when *Front Row* isn't running, you can control your Mac's volume, play/pause movies in *QuickTime* (though not, by default, when using *VLC player*) and skip tracks in *iTunes* with the tiny controller. And for those of you who can't be bothered to get up to put your Mac to sleep, you can hold down the play/pause button to do the job from across the room. Now that's what we call convenience!

Remote install Mac OS X

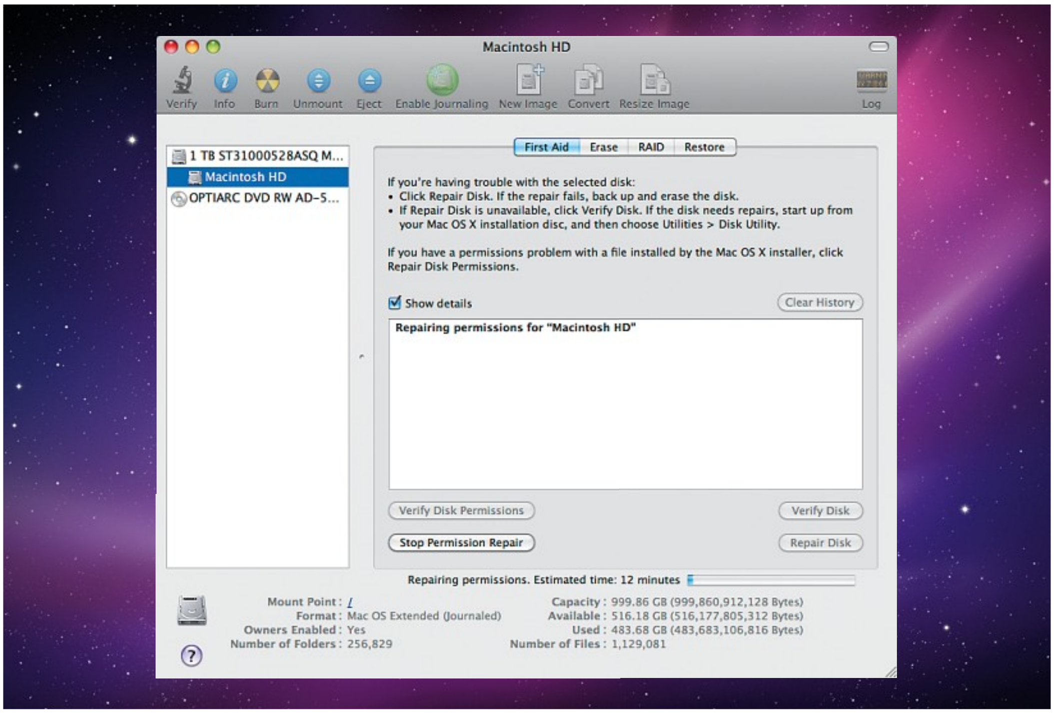
As the name implies, this clever application enables you to install Mac OS X onto another Mac over AirPort or Ethernet. This is ideal for MacBook Air users who don't have a drive to put the install CD in or if you're just plain lazy. Another bonus of *Remote Install Mac OS X* is that it can also be used to run *Disk Utility* and Apple Hardware Test on a remote Mac, so you don't have to keep moving between machines to perform a little tech support.

Quick Dictionary

We've actually got two tips in one for you here. Firstly, did you know you could bring up the Mac OS X *Dictionary* by clicking on a word in compatible apps and pressing ctrl + ⌘ + D to bring up a floating window? From this shortcut or by using the Mac OS X *Dictionary*



The Apple Remote can easily be forgotten, but it does offer you a range of convenient functions.



If you're having trouble with the selected disk:
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Disk Permissions.

☑ Show details

Repairing permissions for "Macintosh HD"

Repairing permissions. Estimated time: 12 minutes

Mount Point : /
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 256,829
Capacity : 999.86 GB (999,860,912,128 Bytes)
Available : 516.18 GB (516,177,805,312 Bytes)
Used : 483.68 GB (483,683,106,816 Bytes)
Number of Files : 1,129,081

A number of small problems can be solved with a simple permissions repair. Your first port of call should be Disk Utility.

app directly, you can look up your chosen word in the regular *Dictionary*, *Apple Dictionary*, *Thesaurus* and even Wikipedia. Simply click on the tabs along the top of the *Dictionary* interface to change the source.

Disk Utility

Sometimes things just go wrong with your Mac and *Disk Utility* is there when they do. Capable of erasing discs, formatting hard drives and creating partitions, *Disk Utility* also offers some handy tools for troubleshooting. Run Repair and Verify processes on your Macintosh HD from within *Disk Utility* to find and fix any problems your Mac's main drive might have. *Disk Utility* will also warn you if your hard drive needs replacing so you can quickly back up and get yourself an upgrade before the worst happens.

iSync

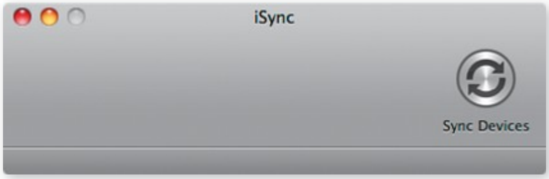
If, shock horror, your mobile phone isn't an iPhone, you can still sync your *Address Book* and *iCal* information to it from your Mac using *iSync*. Connect your mobile phone via Bluetooth or USB and then run *iSync* to keep everything up to date. You will first need to check if your device is supported by *iSync*, information on which can be found via Apple's support pages online. If you're a BlackBerry or Windows Mobile user, however, you'll likely be out of luck as far as syncing goes.

Use Dashboard widgets on the Desktop

Start by opening the *Terminal* application and try not to be scared by the frightening-looking command line interface. Now type defaults write com.apple.dashboard devmode YES followed by killall Dock and close the *Terminal* application. Now, when you go to the *Dashboard* you can click and hold a widget and then hit your *Dashboard* shortcut key (normally F12) to leave the *Dashboard* with your widget in tow. This should work for all your widgets and, when you don't want a widget on your Desktop anymore, hold ⌥ and hover over it until an X appears. Click the X to close the widget.

Quick envelope printing

If you want to send snail mail to someone in your *Address Book*, the normal process would be to copy and paste their address and then import it into a word processor to print out an envelope. Failing that, you might even write the envelope by hand. Your Mac doesn't want you performing such analogue tasks so it enables you to click on a contact in *Address Book*, choose Print from the File menu and a perfectly formatted envelope print is created. You just need to remember to put the envelope in the printer. Not much to ask, is it?



If you don't have an iPhone you can still sync a phone with iSync - but if you're a Blackberry user, you're out of luck.

» QUICK TIPS

Annotate PDFs in Preview

Preview isn't just for looking at images - have your say when it comes to documents by clicking on the **Annotate** button and using the text box, arrows, shapes and other tools for your annotation needs.

Activity Monitor

Does your Mac seem a bit sluggish today? Fire up *Activity Monitor* to get the lowdown on which applications are using up your resources. You can even opt to kill these processes from within the app.

Make your Mac work for you

If you haven't tried it already, take a look at the many ways *Automator* can make your life easier by carrying out repetitive tasks for you. You tell it what to do, *Automator* does the work.

TextEdit suggested words

Next time you're struggling for the spelling of a word in *TextEdit*, start typing the first few letters and then hit the esc key. A list of possible words will pop up for you to choose from.

Adjust colours in Preview

You're ready to share a photo with a friend and open it up in *Preview* only to find the image is a little washed out. No problem: head to the **Tools** menu and select **Adjust Color** to use the editing pane. You'll find options here similar to those in *iPhoto*.

»

Mail and Safari

Top tips for the default Mac OS X web browser and mail client apps

>> QUICK TIPS

Undo in Safari

If you're using the new *Safari 5.0.1* you have access to a very handy trick that could save a lot of hassle. If you accidentally close a tab, don't worry – you can hit ⌘+Z to bring it back immediately.

Pin Top Sites

Using *Safari's* **Top Sites** feature offers an easy way to access pages you've recently visited. If there's a page you want to permanently appear, click the edit button and use the pin button to stick it to the **Top Sites** page.

Smart mailbox

The benefits of a smart mailbox are plenty. Create one using the plus button at the bottom left of the *Mail* interface and set conditions that will filter messages to the smart mailbox.

Mail notes

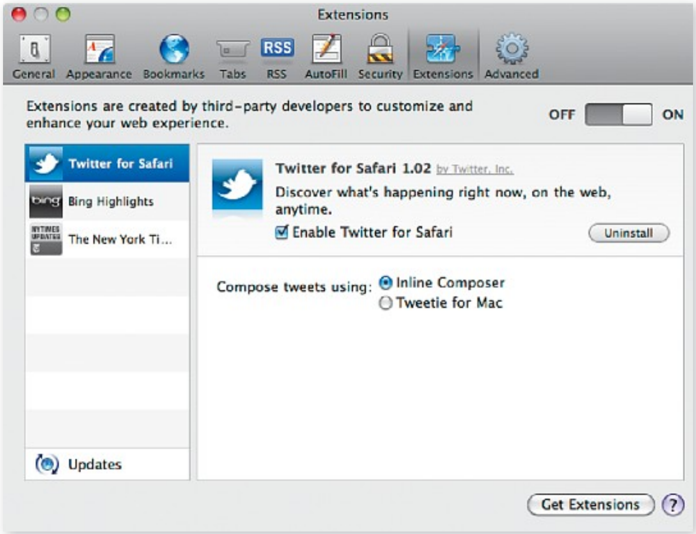
Need to remember an important piece of information? Jot it down into a *Mail* note and it will appear in your inbox as well as sync to your iPhone and iPad, if you have syncing set up.

Visual bookmarks

Flick through bookmarks and web history using Cover Flow. Simply click the **Bookmark** button at the top left of the *Safari* interface.

Safari extensions

Safari 5.0.1 offers extensions that can enhance the functionality of the browser and add new features. You can find a list of available extensions at http://extensions.apple.com and, unlike many plug-ins, extensions can be installed with a single click. There is a wide range of extensions available, including social networking and news add-ons. To uninstall an extension, head to *Safari* Preferences and choose uninstall from the Extensions tab.



Extensions are created by third-party developers to customize and enhance your web experience.

Twitter for Safari 1.02 by Twitter, Inc.

Discover what's happening right now, on the web, anytime.

☑ Enable Twitter for Safari

Compose tweets using: ● Inline Composer ○ Tweetie for Mac

Bring more features to Safari via the burgeoning new world of Safari extensions.

Private browsing

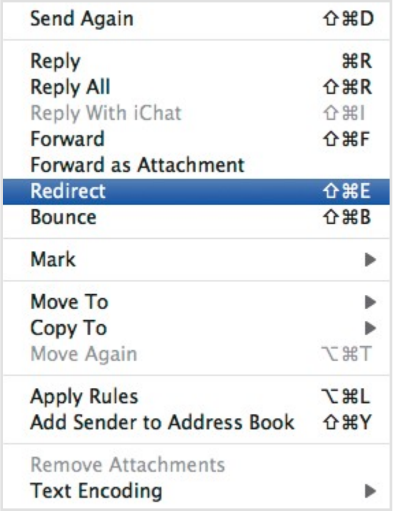
Sometimes, when you're shopping for a surprise gift, for example, you might want some privacy online to prevent anyone viewing the pages you've visited or searches you have made. *Safari* offers this privacy in the form of Private Browsing, which can be turned on from the *Safari* menu. When Private Browsing is turned on any information regarding sites you visit, as well as usernames and passwords, are not stored. Neither will any search fields you use remember your queries, so they won't pop up in future when anyone else uses the computer.

Images in email signatures

From the *Mail* Preferences menu you can add signatures for all or a selection of your accounts. In the Signature field, you can include text and links that will appear at the bottom of all your email messages and you can include images too. Simply drag your image into the Signature field to include it as part of your signature and then open a new *Mail* message to check that it looks okay. It's best to use small images, however, as the image size will be added to the overall size of your email.

Redirect Mail

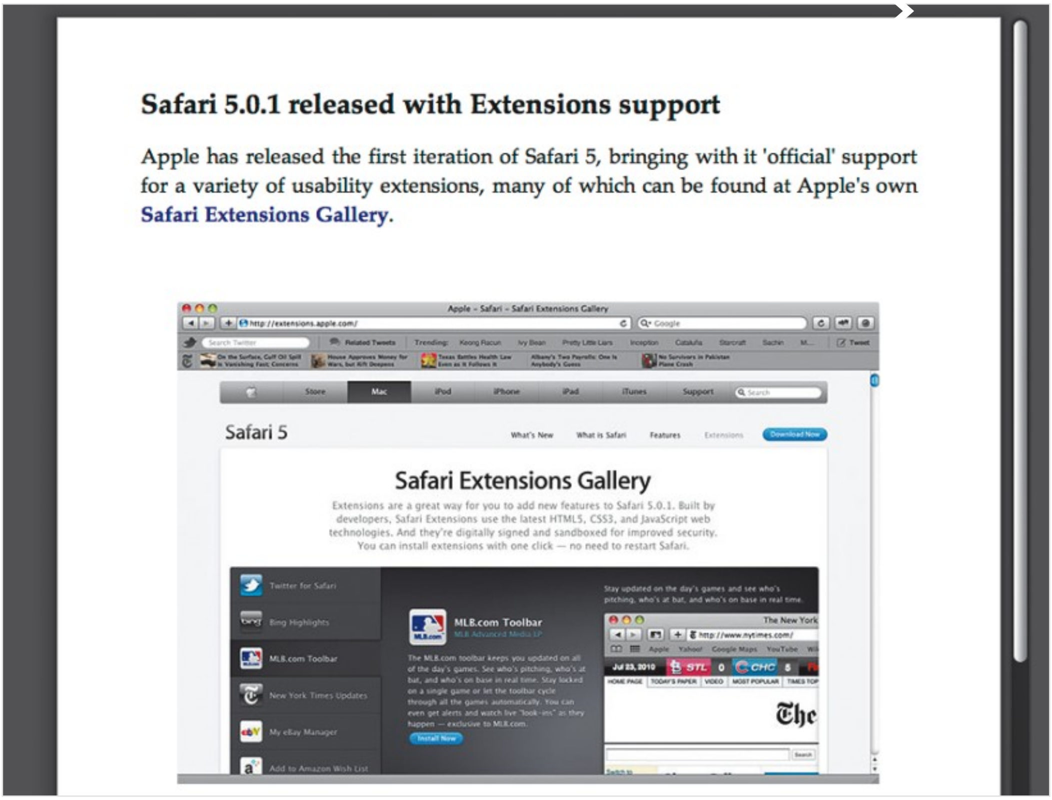
Rather than forwarding an email message to someone, you can also redirect it so it appears in exactly the same way you received it, with the same sender and content in place. Simply select the message and then choose Redirect from the Message menu, or hit ⇧+⌘+E and then add your chosen recipient in the To field. Now the email will appear to be from the original sender but will show the Resent-From field, which will include your own email address. Redirected messages in your inbox always show a distinguishing lightning bolt next to them.



Use Redirect as an alternative to forwarding a message and avoid all that sender clutter.

Safari Open in Dashboard

If there's a section of a website that you visit frequently, why bother with the hassle of launching *Safari* and navigating to the page when you could just pop open your *Dashboard* and view the section there? In order to add a Web Clip to your *Dashboard*, navigate to the page you want to add and then select Open In Dashboard from *Safari's* File menu. A small box will now appear that enables you to set the area you want to capture. From here you can



Safari 5.0.1 released with Extensions support

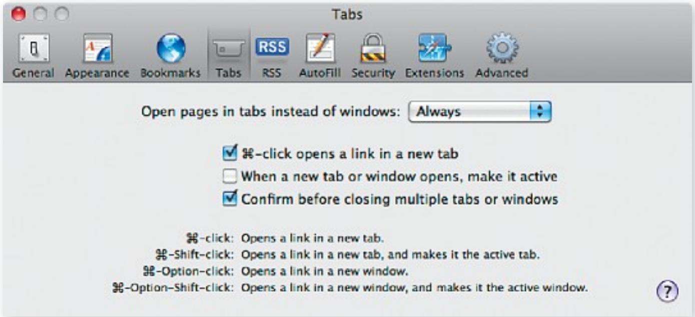
Apple has released the first iteration of Safari 5, bringing with it 'official' support for a variety of usability extensions, many of which can be found at Apple's own Safari Extensions Gallery.

Use Safari 5's new Reader mode for websites that feature great primary content but distracting surrounding ads and suchlike.

simply click **Add** to send the clip to your *Dashboard*, where it will remain and update automatically.

Mail Rules

Along the lines of smart mailboxes but a little more detailed, **Mail Rules** are an often overlooked feature of *Mail* that enable you to organise and filter incoming mail and thereby keep your inbox less cluttered. Using simple criteria, you can set emails from specific senders or those that contain specific content to automatically move to a new mailbox (including Junk Mail) or be highlighted in your inbox for easy identification. To get started with this feature, open *Mail* **Preferences** and click **Rules**, then add one or more rules to begin organising your incoming messages. Rules can then be dragged up and down to alter their priority. Give it a try!



Open pages in tabs instead of windows: Always

☑ ⌘-click opens a link in a new tab
☐ When a new tab or window opens, make it active
☑ Confirm before closing multiple tabs or windows

⌘-click: Opens a link in a new tab.
⌘-Shift-click: Opens a link in a new tab, and makes it the active tab.
⌘-Option-click: Opens a link in a new window.
⌘-Option-Shift-click: Opens a link in a new window, and makes it the active window.

Prevent an untidy clutter of Safari windows by automatically opening links in tabs.

Reader mode in Safari

When you're reading articles online it can become distracting when adverts pop up or appear alongside the text. Using **Reader** mode in *Safari 5* enables you to focus solely on the content without anything luring your eye from the page. Compatible pages will show a **Reader** button in the address bar when you visit them, or you can hit ⌘+⇧+R. From this simplified view you can zoom, email a link or print the page. We've found that **Reader** rarely appears on the front page of a site but will appear when you view individual posts.

Always open Safari web links in new tabs

Safari tabs are a handy way to avoid cluttering your Desktop with multiple browser windows. Clicking on a link in another application will often launch a whole new window, however, which goes against this tidiness. In order to ensure *Safari* opens each new link in a new tab, head to the *Safari* **Preference** pane and click on the **Tabs** section. From here you can select **Always** from the drop-down menu to open pages in tabs instead of windows. If you prefer not to use tabs you can turn them off entirely too, though, personally, we wouldn't!

» QUICK TIPS

Mail stationary

Make your emails more entertaining by clicking the **Show Stationary** button when writing a new message. Now you can choose from a range of colourful options that link to your media libraries, to make your correspondence shine.

Mail threads

Back and forth email conversations can clutter an inbox, but there's a simple solution. By turning on threading from *Mail*'s **View** menu, all messages in a conversation will be grouped into a collapsible thread to keep things tidy - such as Google Mail.

Drag tabs

If you have multiple tabs open in *Safari* you can quickly reorganise them by simply clicking and dragging them to a new position. If you drag a tab out of the *Safari* window it will automatically create a new window.

Bookmarks Bar

Rather than add a bookmark to the standard *Safari* **Bookmarks** folder, why not add it to the **Bookmarks Bar** so you can access it from the main *Safari* window with a single click.

View and save RSS

If you want to access the RSS feed for a page in *Safari*, simply click on the RSS button that appears on the right of the address bar. From here you can copy and paste the feed address to add it to other applications and services, such as *Mail* or *NetNewsWire*.

OS X Startup commands

Take control of your Mac's boot procedure with these useful tips

» QUICK TIPS

Eject CD

If you have a disc in your drive that is refusing to eject, restart your computer and hold down the mouse button as soon as you hear the startup chime. This should eject your disc while your Mac starts up.

Startup Manager

If you're having trouble with your hard drive and need to boot your Mac from a different drive or disc, hold down the ⌥ key during startup to open the Startup Manager, which will enable you to select a different volume.

Start From Disc

To boot up your Mac from an install disc or other bootable CD or DVD, insert the disc and then hold down the C key while the computer starts up. Your Mac will then look for and boot from the disc.

Target Disc Mode

Holding T during startup will tell your Mac to mount its drive on the desktop of a host computer connected via FireWire cable. This can be used to copy files between Macs or for troubleshooting a disc fault.

Verbose Startup

Sometimes you may need to start your Mac in Verbose mode to show all system messages normally hidden during startup. Hold down ⌘+V at startup.

Single User Mode

Single User Mode bypasses a number of standard elements of Mac OS X and puts the user straight into the console where they can make changes using command line utilities. This mode is primarily used to fix problems that occur during startup or when a Mac fails to boot properly. In order to launch Single User Mode, the Mac needs to be restarted and the ⌘ and S keys held during startup as soon as the startup chime is heard. A wide range of useful Single User Mode commands can be found on Apple's support pages.

Take control of your Mac's behaviour at startup and beyond.

Hardware Test

For access to advanced troubleshooting tools if your Mac is exhibiting errors or not booting correctly, you can load the Apple Hardware Test from the install DVD that came with your Mac. With the disc in the drive, boot up your Mac and hold down the D key when you hear the startup chime. The Apple Hardware Test enables you to scan your discs and drives as well as other components to detect any problems with your computer's hardware. This information can then be provided to tech support for advice on replacements and fixes.

Reset PRAM & NVRAM

The acronym-suited mouthfuls Parameter Random Access Memory and Nonvolatile Random Access Memory refer to special stores of information for Mac OS X such as time-zone settings, startup volume, speaker volume, DVD region settings and more. Resetting the NVRAM or PRAM can fix a number of Mac problems including startup issues. In order to reset the values, hold down ⌘+⌥+P+R as soon as you hear the startup chime. If done correctly, your Mac will restart and you'll hear the chime again. Now the PRAM or NVRAM will have been reset and you can release the keys.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard
Install DVD

Mac OS X Snow Leopard has a range of startup options that can help you fix and diagnose problems.

Safe Boot Mode

Safe Boot Mode is often the only way to boot into Mac OS X if the boot drive is encountering problems. This is normally exhibited by the startup hanging at the default grey screen, preventing OS X from booting. By launching into Safe Boot Mode via holding down the ⇧ key during startup, your Mac forces a directory check of the startup volume and only launches the bare minimum of kernel extensions, fonts and startup items required, so as to avoid any that may be causing problems and allow for easier identification. Of course, safe Boot Mode also enables you to make changes to prevent problems when booting your Mac in the future. ●

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Technology TV Presenter

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Deep into technology

"Tech that used to cost thousands now comes free with a new Mac!"

HOW TO SET UP AND USE A GREEN SCREEN P58

In this issue…

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How to…

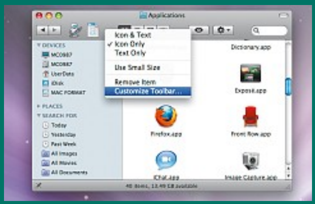
● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

Every now and then it's worth celebrating how available and easy the Mac tools we have are. Also, it's worth pointing out that many of them very recently cost thousands of pounds and required years of experience to get to grips with. Case in point: on page 58, we show you how to create a green screen set that allows you to easily cut out action in a video and replace its background – and you'll use nothing more complicated than *iMovie* for this (an app that probably came free on your new Mac when you bought it). This green screen technique is the same one Hollywood uses to place actors in outer space and more, and now you can do it with, essentially, a bedsheet and a free application.

We'll also show you a similar trick in *Keynote* (though it works in the rest of the *iWork* suite too) on page 64.

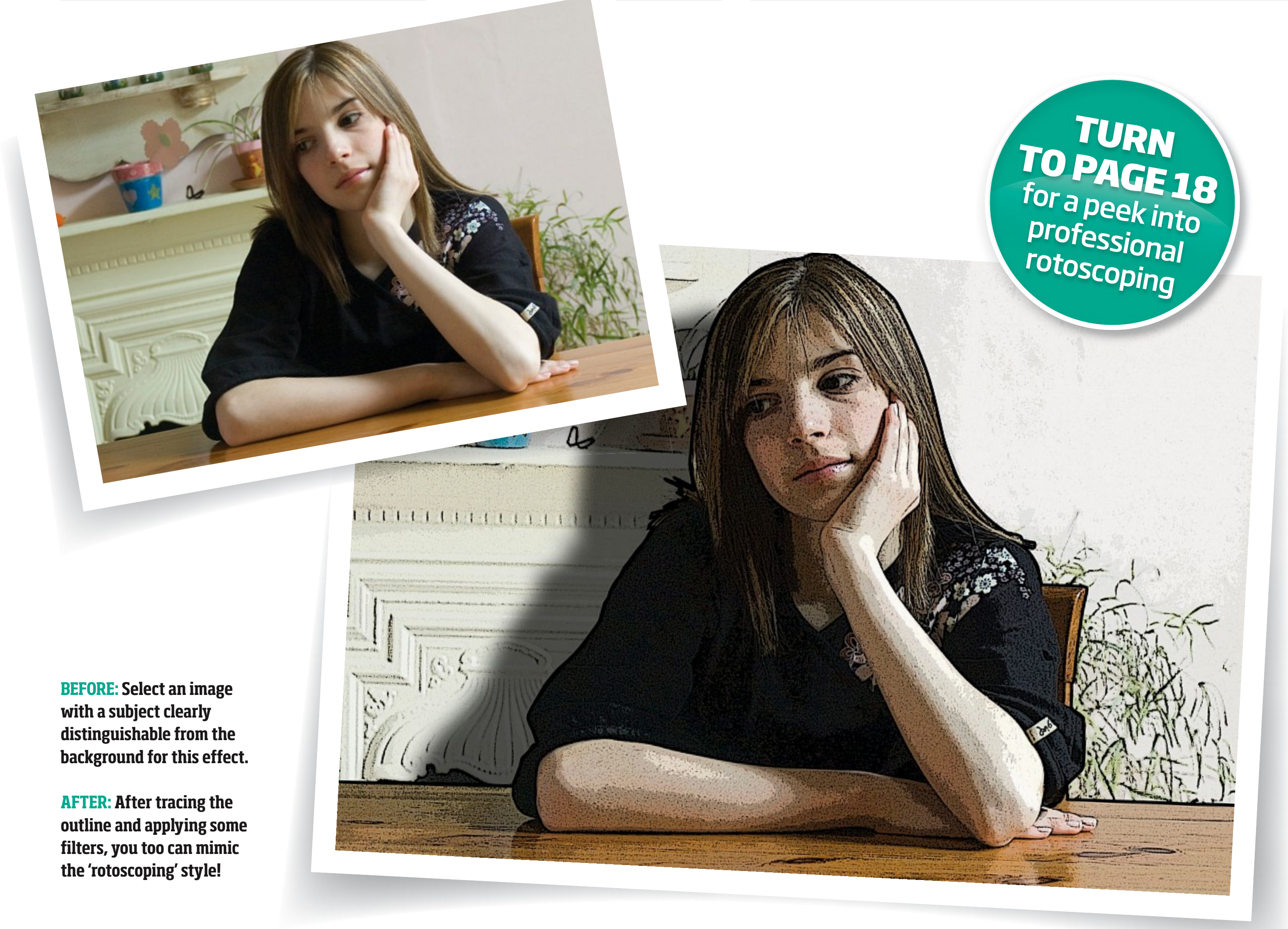
But, of course, as always there's a ton of other stuff included as well. We'll show you how to boost your system by hand-picking 10 essential *Dashboard* widgets, and look at how to make the latest version of *Safari* better with the judicious addition of some newly supported extensions!



Applications
Icon & Text
✓ Icon Only
Text Only
Use Small Size
Remove Item
Customize Toolbar…
DEVICES
MC0887
MC0887
UserData
iDisk
MAC FORMAT
PLACES
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
Dictionary.app
Exposé.app
Firefox.app
Front Row.app
iChat.app
Image Capture.app

>> DID YOU KNOW?

As well as customising the *Finder's* toolbar with a right-click, you can add documents, apps and more to it by dragging, hovering or dropping. Hold ⌘ to rearrange or drag out.



TURN TO PAGE 18 for a peek into professional rotoscoping

BEFORE: Select an image with a subject clearly distinguishable from the background for this effect.

AFTER: After tracing the outline and applying some filters, you too can mimic the 'rotoscoping' style!

Create a rotoscope effect

Recreate a live-action rotoscoping effect on a still image in Photoshop

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Adobe Photoshop or Elements

Rotoscoping is a film industry technique for recreating live-action characters as animations. Originally, artists would laboriously re-draw live figures as animated characters, frame by frame, using a device called a 'rotoscope' – hence the name. These days, rotoscoping is carried out using computer software, usually to superimpose action sequences against different backdrops.

Rotoscoping produces images with a 3D pseudo-cartoon appearance, and while this is a film technique, the effect can be recreated in still images using *Photoshop*. This is done by first separating the subject from the background and then applying art filters to create the 'cartoon' look.

The three-dimensional effect is achieved by separating the subject with a black outline and applying a drop shadow – this makes it appear to hover above the background.

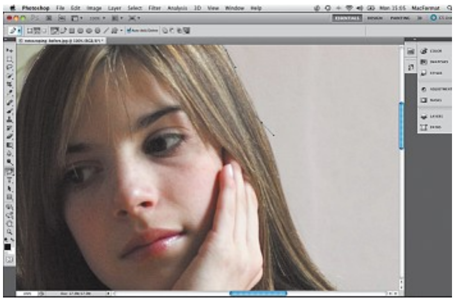
We've used *Photoshop* here because the Pen tool is ideal for this kind of selection, and while this isn't available in *Elements*, you can achieve the same effect by using the Polygonal Lasso tool. It's a bit more difficult in that you have to correct mistakes as soon as you make them, and the tool only creates straight-line segments rather than curves, but it's still perfectly feasible.

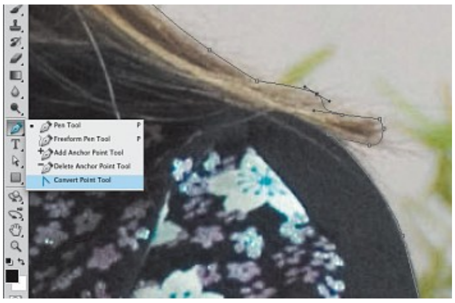
> *"While this is a film technique, the effect can be recreated in still images using filters in Photoshop"*

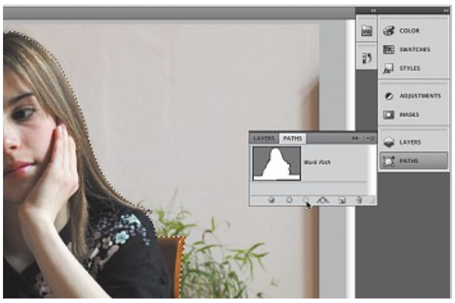
There's more than one way to create the drop shadow effect, too. We'll use a drop shadow layer style, but it can be quicker to create a new layer and fill it with black using the selection used to separate the subject. This creates a separate 'shadow' layer which you can put between the subject and the background, resize, move and blur it, and adjust the opacity and blend mode for a realistic shadow effect. You can also transform the layer to produce the effect you get from light sources close to the subject.

Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Recreate the rotoscoping effect in Photoshop




Pen Tool
Freeform Pen Tool
Add Anchor Point Tool
Delete Anchor Point Tool
Convert Point Tool



01 Create a Path

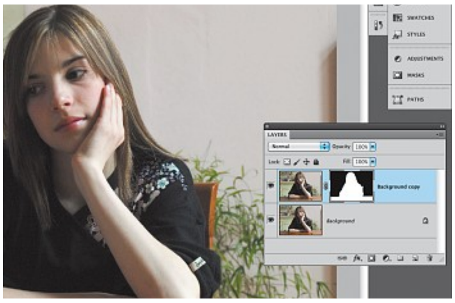
Trace around the subject's outline using *Photoshop's* **Path** tool. Adjustments can be made later. To create a straight-line control point, just click (as with the **Polygonal Lasso**), but to create a curved control point with control handles, click then drag in the same movement.

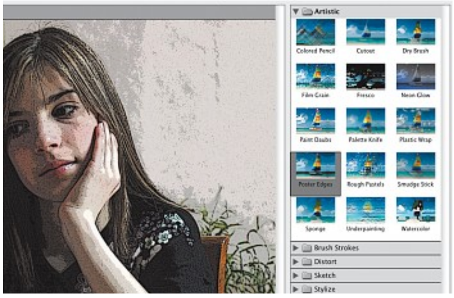
02 Modify the path

Trace the outline back to the start and close the path. Use the **Direct Selection** tool to click the path then select any control points to tweak. Drag the control handles to change the curve's shape; use the **Convert Point** tool to swap between corner and curve points.

03 Create a selection

Open the **Paths** palette, where you'll find the **Work Path** you've just created. Ensure this is selected, then click the **Load path as selection** button at the bottom of the palette, third from the left. The effects that follow will mask any small imperfections you see here.



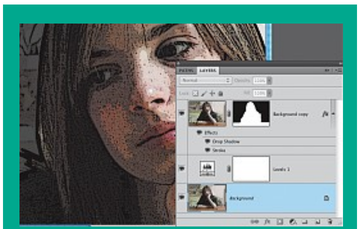

Artistic
Colored Pencil
Cutout
Dry Brush
Film Grain
Fresco
Neon Glow
Paint Daubs
Palette Knife
Plastic Wrap
Poster Edges
Rough Pastels
Smudge Stick
Sponge
Underpainting
Watercolor
Brush Strokes
Distort
Sketch
Stylize

04 Create a new layer

Now to duplicate the image layer. In the **Layers** palette, drag its thumbnail onto the **Create a new layer** button at the bottom of the palette. With this new layer selected and the selection still active, click the **Add layer mask** button to convert it to a mask for the top layer.

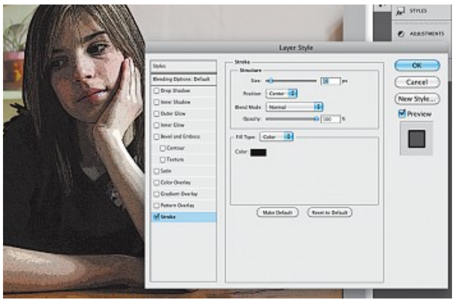
05 Poster Edges filter

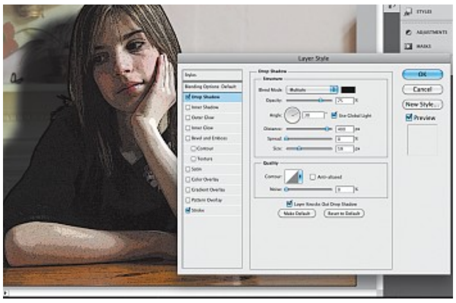
Now that the subject is on a new layer, an art filter is used to create a hand-drawn effect. Try the **Poster Edges** filter; tinkering with the sliders should produce a decent effect. **Posterization** controls the number of tones used; **Edge Intensity** creates the ink effect.

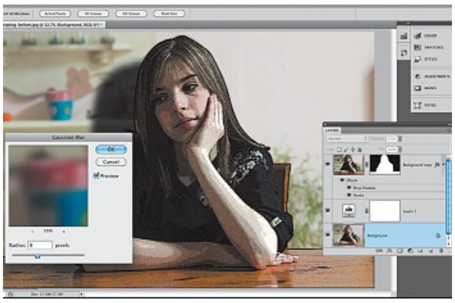


QUICK TIP

Combining a real-life background with a cartoon-style subject doesn't always look right. Try applying the same art filter to the background (shown here), and see which you prefer. You can lighten or darken the background to make the subject stand out, but Gaussian Blur effects don't work so well on art effects.







06 Stroke effect

The **Stroke** layer effect is ideal for adding an outline to the cut-out figure. Use black as the stroke colour and adjust the stroke thickness until it looks right. Set the **Position** pop-up to **Center** to disguise imperfections in the original selection.

07 Drop shadow effect

To 'lift' the subject from the background, use a drop shadow effect – create this in the same **Layer Style** dialog. Look at the lighting in your original picture; use this to set the **Angle** adjustment. The **Distance** slider controls the shadow's offset and the **Size** slider its blur.

08 Adjust the background

Thanks to layers, you can separately adjust the background to tone it down and make your subject stand out. For example, you could use a **Levels** adjustment layer to lighten it (move the midtone slider to the left) and a **Gaussian Blur** to make it look out of focus. ●

Use Places in iPhoto

It's time to put your photos on the map! Here's how it's done…

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iPhoto '09

The **Places** feature in *iPhoto '09* uses geotagging, in which geographical co-ordinates are linked to images to identify where they were taken. These can be used to identify their position on a map.

There are a number of modern cameras that include GPS receivers, such as the Panasonic TZ10 and the Samsung ST1000. As long as you're shooting out of doors and the camera's had time to lock onto the GPS satellites, the location information is embedded in the image file. *iPhoto* can then place the photo on the map automatically.

But you don't need a GPS camera to use the **Places** feature, because it also works the other way round – you can use the **Places** feature to add location information manually.

With or without a GPS camera, then, you can geotag your photos and start to enjoy the benefits of **Places**, and there are plenty. While it may appear that being able to browse your photos as push-pins on a map might seem like little more than a novelty, there are in fact distinct advantages.

For a start, maps are very 'visual' and intuitive. You can use keywords or albums to identify all the places you've taken pictures, but it's just not the same. You can't browse a list in the same way you can browse a map – you lose that sense of physical proximity or distance. Also, recording locations can become quite important later on as you find yourself visiting places again and again. Without **Places**, or some other system for recording where pictures were taken, your photos of a specific place could end up split into different batches all across your *iPhoto* library.

> *"You can use keywords or albums to identify all the places you've taken pictures, but it's just not the same"*

Besides, keywords and albums already have enough to do. If you start using them to record location information too, your *iPhoto* sidebar can become overcrowded and useless. If nothing else, **Places** offers a separate way of recording location information that eases the burden on *iPhoto*'s existing image cataloguing tools.

The problem with **Places**, though, is that the tools can be confusing to start with because they don't always do what you might expect. Our walkthrough is designed not just to show how **Places** works, then, but to explain what's going on at each step.

Rod Lawton

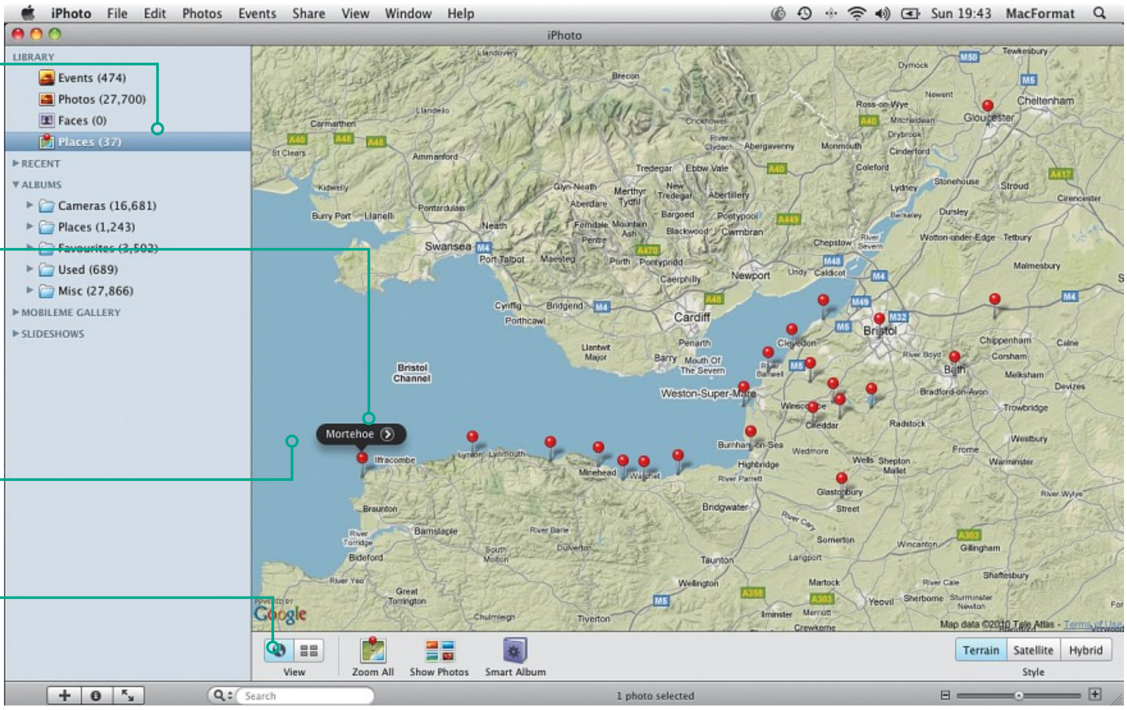
>> QUICK LOOK / Finding your way around Places

Places
Click the **Places** button to view a map where all your photo locations are marked with pins.

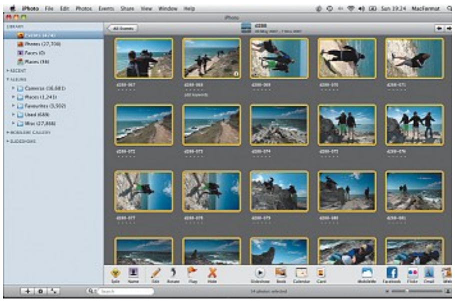
Pins
Mouse over a pin to see a name; click the arrow button to see pictures.

Navigation
Zoom in and out and drag on the map to scroll around.

Map or List
Use these buttons to toggle between the **Map** and **List** view.

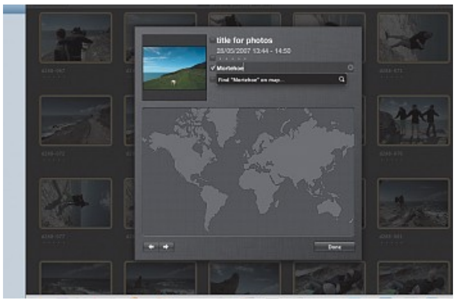

iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Sun 19:43 MacFormat
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (474)
Photos (27,700)
Faces (0)
Places (37)
RECENT
ALBUMS
Cameras (16,681)
Places (1,243)
Favourites (3,502)
Used (689)
Misc (27,866)
MOBILEME GALLERY
SLIDESHOWS
Mortehoe
Swansea
Cardiff
Bristol
Newport
Bristol Channel
Weston-Super-Mare
Cheltenham
Gloucester
Bath
Google
View
Zoom All
Show Photos
Smart Album
Terrain
Satellite
Hybrid
Style
Search
1 photo selected

HOW TO / Use Places in iPhoto



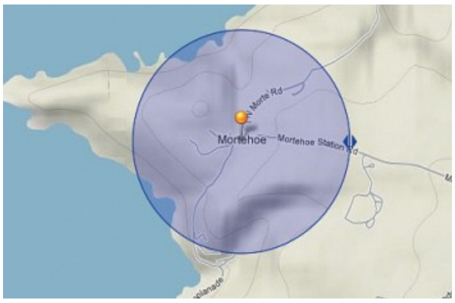
01 Add Places

You can add location information to a single thumbnail, multiple thumbnails or entire events. Select them first then move the mouse pointer over the bottom right-hand corner to display the 'i' icon. Select multiple photos and location information is added to all of them.



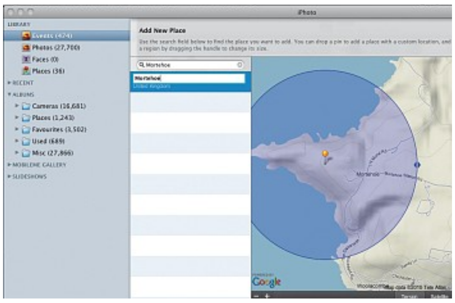
02 Photo place

The info panel displays a 'photo place' field. Click this box and the text is selected – start typing. As you do, *iPhoto* will look for a match, but only among places you've already applied to other photos. To search for a new place, use the pop-up 'Find … on map' field.



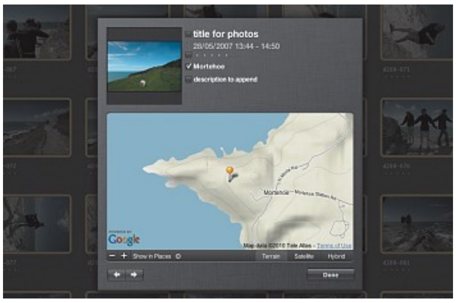
03 Search result

The **Places** feature uses Google Maps. With any luck, your place name will be found and shown in the **Add New Place** panel. It's indicated by a pin; the purple circle indicates the radius of the area covered by this pin. But what if this doesn't cover the area you want?



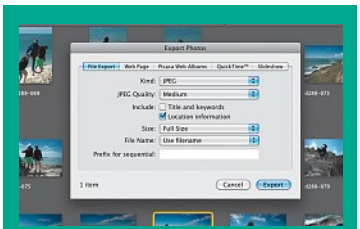
04 Adding or moving pins

You can add a new pin (use the **Drop Pin** button, bottom left) or move the existing pin, which is the easiest thing to do here. We've used the size gadget on the right-hand side to increase the radius, and moved the whole pin to the left to encompass the coast.



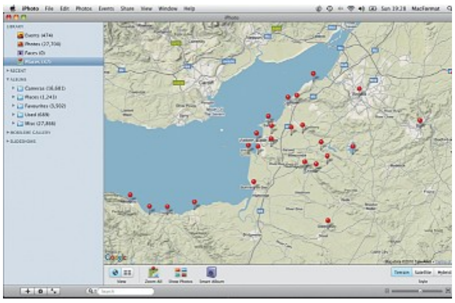
05 Check the details

If you add a pin yourself, make sure it's selected (it'll turn orange) before clicking the **Assign to photo** button, bottom right, in the previous dialog. The info panel reappears to display your photo(s) location on the map. Adding locations soon gets quicker…



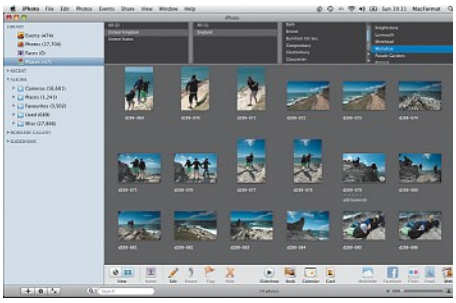
QUICK TIP

iPhoto's place-tagging is compatible with other mapping applications such as *Picasa*, but only when you **Export** photos (**File** menu) and check the **Location Information** box in the **File Export** tab of the **Export Photos** dialog. (It doesn't work if you just drag a photo onto the desktop, for example.)



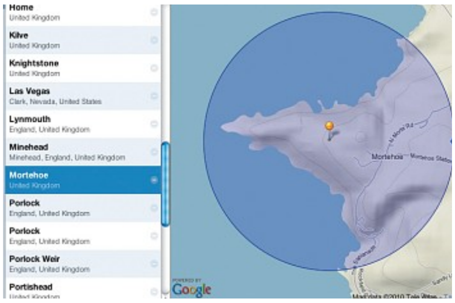
06 Browsing the map

Now you can use the **Places** button in the sidebar to view your photos on the map. It's just like using Google Maps – you can zoom in and out and drag the map to move around it. To see pictures taken at a location, mouse over the pin. Click the arrow button to see the photos.



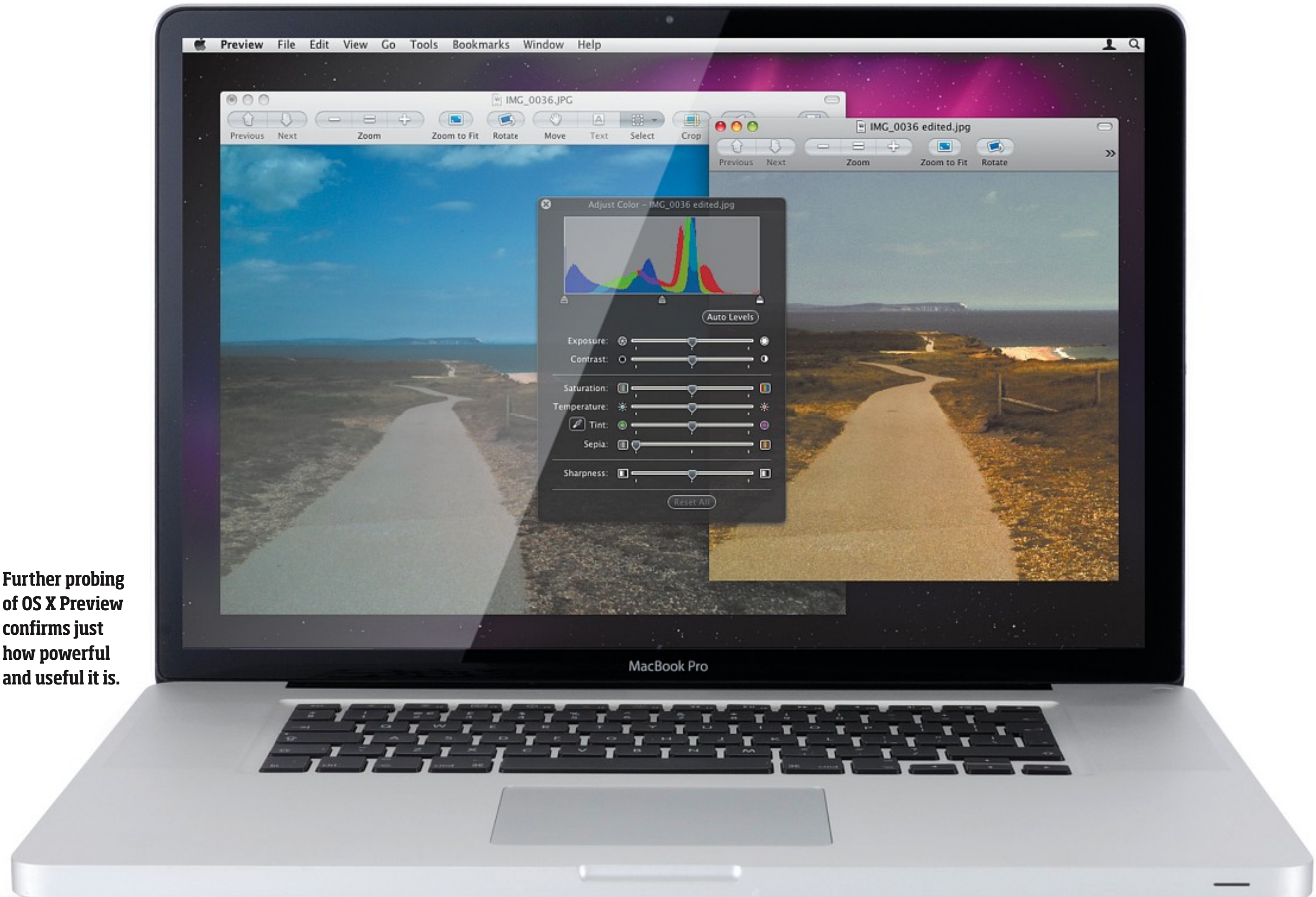
07 List view

Map view isn't the only choice. At the left-hand end of the map toolbar are two buttons to toggle between **Map** and **List** view. **List** view shows locations in a columnar format (à la *Finder*'s **Column** view), with the country on the left, followed by region then place name.



08 Managing Places

If you modify the place of a given photo, the change will only apply to that photo. To modify a place for all location photos, you need the Window > Manage My Places dialog. This lists all the **Places** you've created, with tools for modifying the name, position and radius. ●


Preview File Edit View Go Tools Bookmarks Window Help
IMG_0036.JPG
Previous Next Zoom Zoom to Fit Rotate Move Text Select Crop
IMG_0036 edited.jpg
Previous Next Zoom Zoom to Fit Rotate
Adjust Color – IMG_0036 edited.jpg
Auto Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Temperature:
Tint:
Sepia:
Sharpness:
Reset All
MacBook Pro

Further probing of OS X Preview confirms just how powerful and useful it is.

Edit photos using Preview

Use OS X's built-in Preview to adjust, crop, rotate and fine-tune your images

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.6, an image to edit

You might have noticed from recent issues of *MacFormat* that we're big fans of OS X *Preview*. In fact, if you haven't noticed this, it comes as a bit of a surprise, because we bang on about Apple's free image and PDF reader quite a lot. Our reasoning is that *Preview* ceased to be 'just' a free image and PDF reader some time ago – during *Preview*'s recent revisions, Apple has quietly added loads more power 'under the hood'.

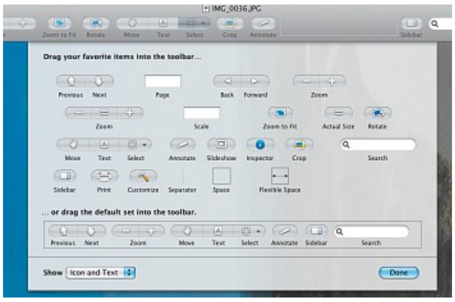
For example, in *MF223* we showed how *Preview* can be used as an able replacement for your scanning software. That tutorial ended with the scans having been made, so the walkthrough on the following page could be considered the next step, showing how you can subsequently use *Preview* to edit scanned images. Of course, you don't have to have something scanned to edit in *Preview* – you can use the application to open most popular image formats, including images that you've downloaded from emails or the internet, and digital photos you have stored on your Mac.

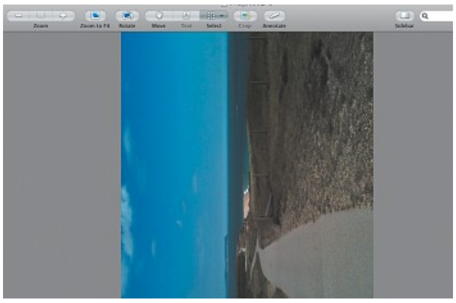
You might at this point be wondering why we're not telling you to fire up *iPhoto* and use that for basic image-editing. After all, Apple's photo manager has plenty of tools for working with images. While we agree that *iPhoto*'s great if you've a lot of work to do, it can be cumbersome for quick edits to just one or two images. By contrast, *Preview* launches quickly, and it's also very efficient once you know a few of its more useful shortcuts.

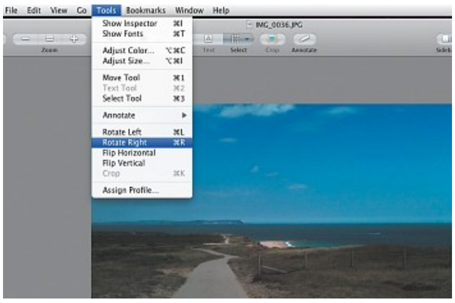
> *"We'll show you how to use Preview to crop an image, and adjust a photo's exposure and colour settings"*

We'll show you how to use *Preview* for rotating and cropping an image, and also how to adjust a photo's exposure and colour settings, before preparing it for export. Oh, and Apple, if you're reading: an arbitrary-rotate option in the next version of the app would round it off beautifully!
Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Edit images in Preview


Drag your favorite items into the toolbar...
... or drag the default set into the toolbar.
Show Icon and Text
Done




File Edit View Go Tools Bookmarks Window Help
Show Inspector
Show Fonts
Adjust Color...
Adjust Size...
Move Tool
Text Tool
Select Tool
Annotate
Rotate Left
Rotate Right
Flip Horizontal
Flip Vertical
Crop
Assign Profile...

01 Customise the toolbar

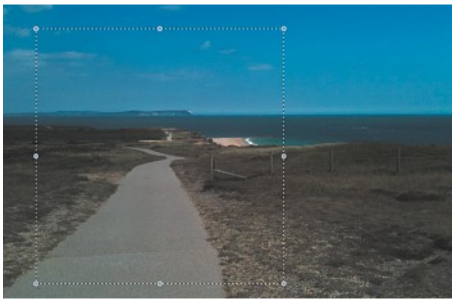
Open an image in *Preview* and go to View > Customize Toolbar. The default buttons are fine for general use, but there are some image-editing buttons that you should add. Drag to the toolbar **Zoom to Fit**, **Rotate**, **Crop** and the **Zoom** set that includes the = button.

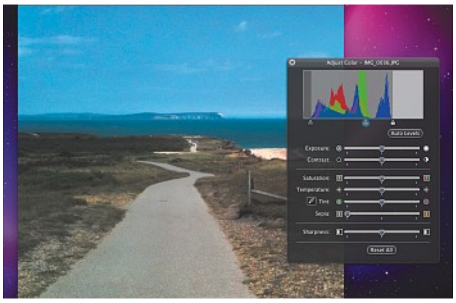
02 Zoom in and out

Depending on your **Images** settings within *Preview*'s preferences, images will by default scale to fit the window or be displayed at full size. Move between zoom settings by clicking **Zoom to Fit** or =, or by using View > Zoom to Fit and View > Actual Size (⌘+0).

03 Rotate your image

Preview is fantastic for rotating images quickly – handy for correctly orienting images and screen grabs from iOS devices. Click the **Rotate** button to rotate your image left, or hold ⌥ and click to rotate it right. ⌘+L and ⌘+R can also be used to rotate left and right.



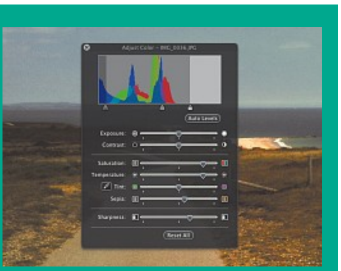

Adjust Color – IMG_0036.JPG
Auto Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Temperature:
Tint:
Sepia:
Sharpness:
Reset All

04 Learn to crop

Click **Select** and choose **Rectangular Selection** (or press ⌘+3) and drag a rectangle (hold ⇧ to make a square selection). Place your cursor within the selection and drag to move it, or use the handles to resize the selection. Click **Crop** (or press ⌘+K) to crop your image.

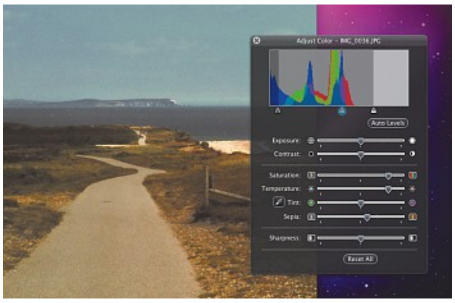
05 Adjust levels

Go to Tools > Adjust Color (or press ⌥+⌘+C). The window you'll see can be used to fine-tune your image. Click **Auto Levels** and *Preview* will try to fix your image's brightness and contrast. If you're unhappy with the result, adjust the settings using the controls below.



QUICK TIP

If you resize an image and make it smaller, it may lose sharpness. Use the **Sharpness** slider in the **Adjust Color** window to bring back some of the lost detail. Note that you can also drag this slider to the left if you need to add blur to a photo.


Adjust Color – IMG_0036.JPG
Auto Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Temperature:
Tint:
Sepia:
Sharpness:
Reset All

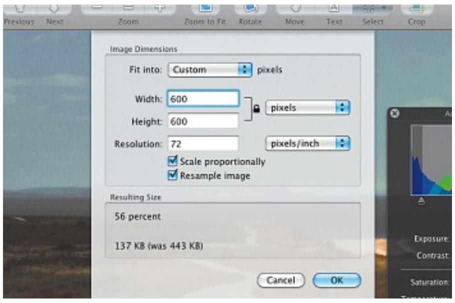
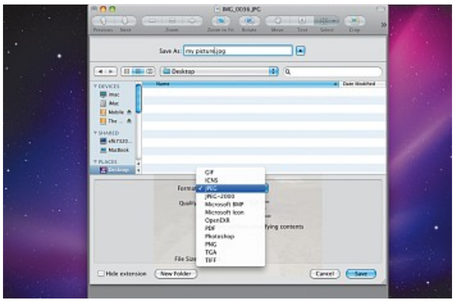


Image Dimensions
Fit into: Custom pixels
Width: 600 pixels
Height: 600
Resolution: 72 pixels/inch
☑ Scale proportionally
☑ Resample image
Resulting Size
56 percent
137 KB (was 443 KB)



Save As: my picture.jpg

Desktop
GIF
ICNS
JPEG
JPEG-2000
Microsoft BMP
Microsoft Icon
OpenEXR
PDF
Photoshop
PNG
TGA
TIFF
Hide extension
New Folder
Cancel
Save

06 Fine-tune colours

If you think your image lacks punch (or has too much) when it comes to colour, experiment with the next four sliders. Boost **Saturation** for high-impact colour, or increase **Saturation** and **Temperature** and then drag **Sepia** two-thirds across for a 70s camera effect.

07 Resize your image

To make an image suitable for online use, resize it directly in *Preview*. Go to Tools > Adjust Size. Use **Fit into:** to resize your image to common dimensions, or define settings in the fields below. Leave **Scale proportionally** checked to avoid distortion during resizing.

08 Save your image

Go to File > Save As to save your image. Use **Format** to pick one – JPEG at 70% quality is fine for web use; TIFF, PNG and JPEG at best quality are good for storage. If using JPEG, give low-quality images new filenames, so you don't overwrite the high-quality originals. ●

Catalogue your video clips

Organise footage so you can find a clip in an instant and discard the duds

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iMovie '09 version 8.0.6 or later, imported clips in Events or iPhoto, a basic understanding of the interface

When Apple redesigned *iMovie* back in 2007, they not only completely rethought how video editing could be done, they also provided budding filmmakers with a means of organising footage. Prior to that version, each project contained its own media, meaning it wasn't easy to use the same clip in multiple projects save for duplicating it and adding it to all projects. No real thought had been put into efficient video cataloguing.

But with hard drives getting bigger and cheaper, and digital video becoming more commonplace, keeping all your footage became realistic. Doing this would also offer you the opportunity of using clips from multiple sources and taken at different times, even years apart. You just needed to know where all your clips were stored.

This is exactly what *iMovie '08* set out to do. The idea was further refined with the release of *iMovie '09*, the current version. *iMovie* is capable of handling many formats, blending them together in a single project. As a result, you can easily work with videos taken with your stills camera and have those alongside HD footage taken with the latest camcorders. *iMovie* won't even bat an eyelid.

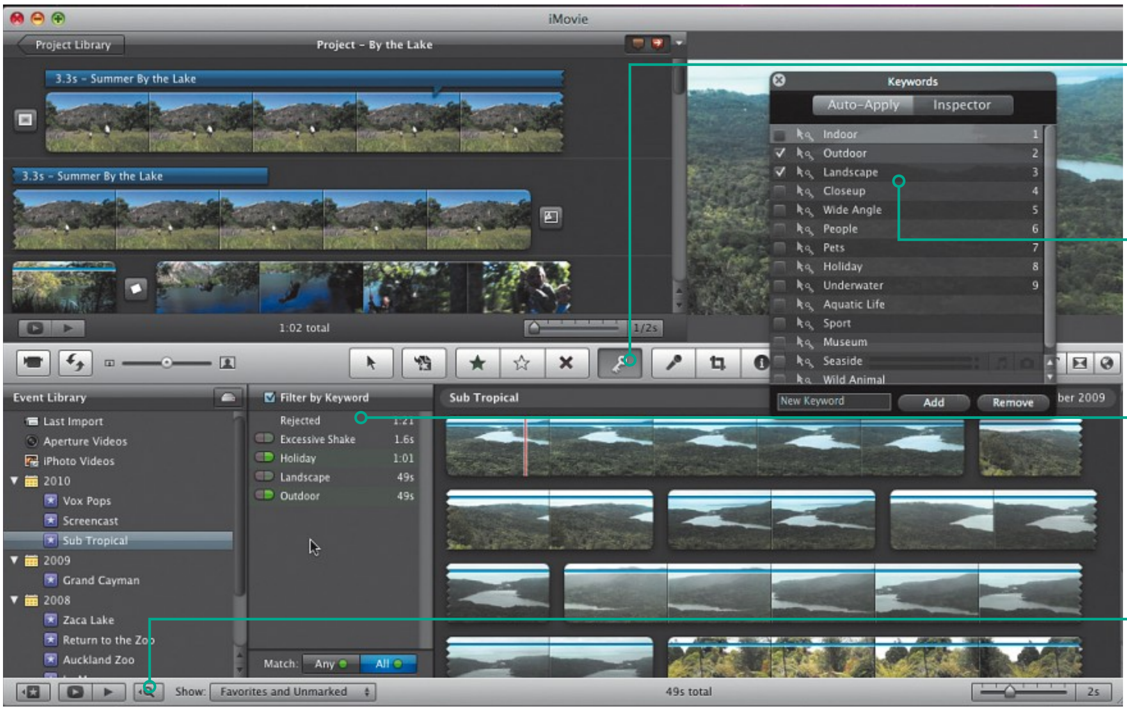
Since both *iPhoto* and *Aperture* store videos taken from stills cameras, *iMovie* is aware of those libraries and will display little *iPhoto* or *Aperture* icons in its Event Library pane if any are located there (lower left of the interface). Anything captured from a camcorder gets stored in Events, which can be broken down by year or even by which drive they're stored in.

> *"iMovie is capable of handling many formats, blending them together in a single project"*

You can only create Events when you import footage, but you're free to move any clip from one event into another after that. This is merely the beginning of how you can catalogue and organise your videos. You can give your clips (or parts thereof) star ratings to see which are your best takes. You can also apply keywords to help you locate all relevant shots over your entire clip library. And if you're running out of space, there's nothing stopping you from deleting portions of your clips you know you'll never ever use. We'll show you how all of this works in this tutorial.

Steve Paris

QUICK LOOK / Use Keywords in iMovie


iMovie
Project Library
Project – By the Lake
3.3s – Summer By the Lake
1:02 total
Keywords
Auto-Apply
Inspector
Indoor 1
Outdoor 2
Landscape 3
Closeup 4
Wide Angle 5
People 6
Pets 7
Holiday 8
Underwater 9
Aquatic Life
Sport
Museum
Seaside
Wild Animal
New Keyword
Add
Remove
Event Library
Last Import
Aperture Videos
iPhoto Videos
2010
Vox Pops
Screencast
Sub Tropical
2009
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
Filter by Keyword
Rejected
Excessive Shake 1.6s
Holiday 1:01
Landscape 49s
Outdoor 49s
Match: Any All
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
49s total
2s

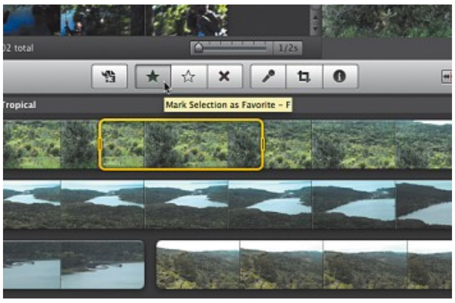
Keywords button
Trigger **Advanced Tools** in **Preferences** and this keyword button is revealed.

Sort keywords
Select a clip and create or use a pre-existing keyword to label it.

Keyword search
Any keywords you've used will appear here. Toggle to view clips.

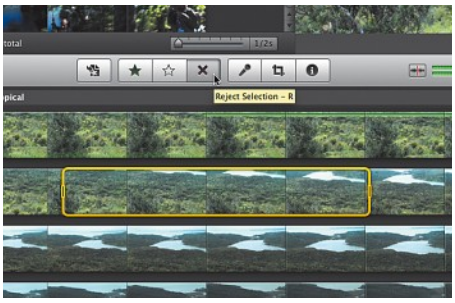
Keyword pane
Click here to toggle the keyword search pane in the **Event Library**.

HOW TO / Organise your clips efficiently


Mark Selection as Favorite – F

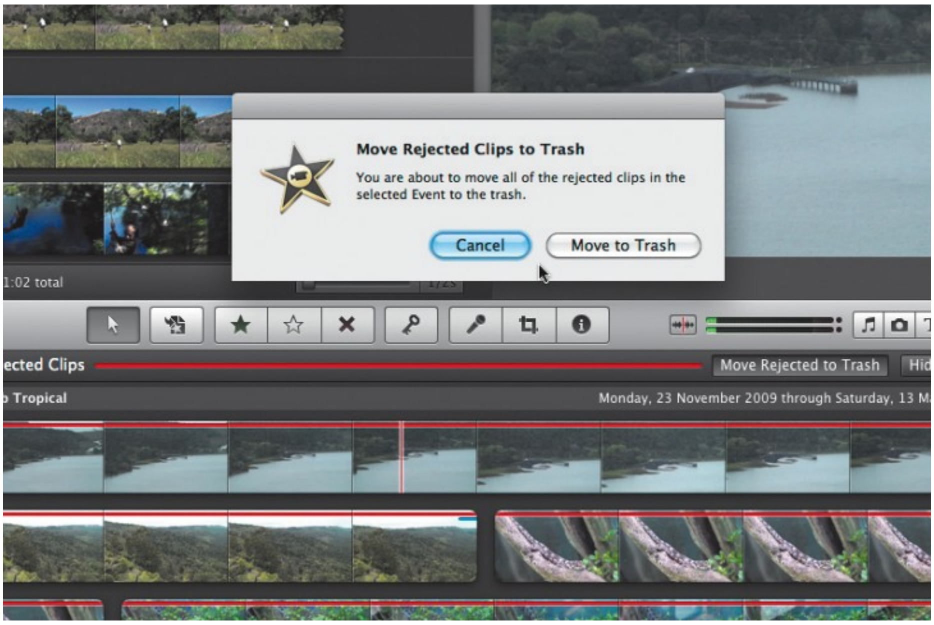
01 Make a Favourite

Click and drag to select a part of a clip in one of your **Events**. Drag the handles on either side of the highlighted portion to fine-tune your selection. Doing this activates the star buttons. The green one is used to denote your clip as a **Favourite** (try the F shortcut too).


Reject Selection – R

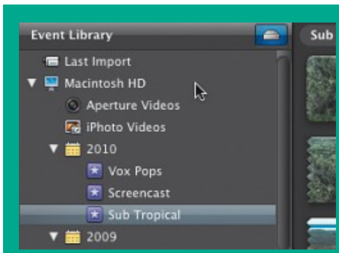
02 Unmark and reject

A **Favourite** section has a green line above it. To select it all, click on the line. To remove the rating, click on the hollow star (or type U). Click on the red 'x' (or type R) to reject the selection. This removes it from the **Event**, but it's not deleted yet (see Steps 5-6).


Move Rejected Clips to Trash

You are about to move all of the rejected clips in the selected Event to the trash.

Cancel
Move to Trash
1:02 total
Move Rejected to Trash
Tropical
Monday, 23 November 2009 through Saturday, 13 M

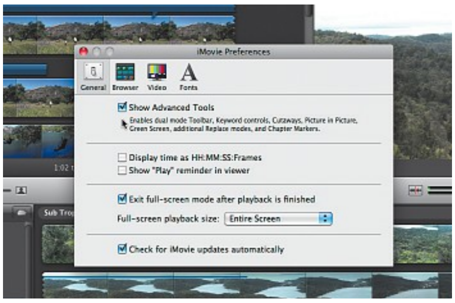

Event Library
Sub
Last Import
Macintosh HD
Aperture Videos
iPhoto Videos
2010
Vox Pops
Screencast
Sub Tropical
2009

QUICK TIP

Top-right of the **Event Library** pane is a button like a 3D box. This represents your hard disks. Click it and all your **Events** are organised not only by year, but by the drives they're stored in, making it easier to see where all your media is stored.

06 Manage Rejects

Use the same pop-up menu to reveal all your rejected clips (by choosing the **Rejected Only** command). None of these clips have been deleted, just hidden from view. To remove them from this section, select them and label them differently using either the green or hollow stars. If you're certain you'll no longer be needing these parts of your footage, delete them permanently by clicking the **Move Rejected to Trash** button. You'll have one last chance to change your mind since *iMovie* will place the clips into the Trash: you can always take them out and re-import them if you make a terrible mistake. Once you've emptied the Trash, they're gone from your Mac for good. ●


iMovie Preferences

General
Browser
Video
Fonts

☑ Show Advanced Tools
Enables dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.

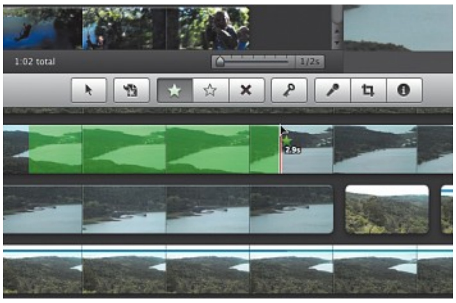
☐ Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
☐ Show "Play" reminder in viewer

☑ Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback size: Entire Screen

☑ Check for iMovie updates automatically

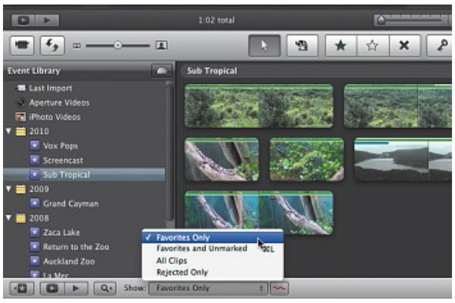
03 Toggle Advanced Tools

There's another way you can work with this rating tool, but before doing so you need to open the **Preferences** window (type ⌘+,). Make sure the **General** tab is selected (it's the first from the left) and click on the **Show Advanced Tools** tick box.


1:02 total
1/2s

04 Click and drag to rate

With nothing selected, click the green star. Now, everything you highlight gets a **Favourite** label. You can use the same keyboard shortcuts above to trigger ratings. To return to the regular cursor, hit the esc key or click on the toolbar's new **Cursor** button (far left).


1:02 total
Event Library
Sub Tropical
Last Import
Aperture Videos
iPhoto Videos
2010
Vox Pops
Screencast
Sub Tropical
2009
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
✓ Favorites Only
Favorites and Unmarked
All Clips
Rejected Only
Show: Favorites Only

05 Show Only Favourites

Once you've rated a few clips as **Favourites** or **Rejects**, it's time to explore another part of the interface. Bottom left is a pop-up menu called **Show**, currently set to **Favourites and Unmarked**. Click it and choose **Favourites Only** to show only those clips.

Create a green screen set

With preparation, achieving a green screen effect is simpler than you might think

>> QUICK TIP

Make sure you're prepared for any eventuality. One of the most common problems are blown light bulbs. Always have spare ones at your disposal so you can quickly replace them and carry on working, rather than waste time by having to drive to the nearest hardware store when disaster strikes.

The art of chroma keying can be seen in many of the television programmes and films you watch. When it's done correctly, you may not even realise it's there at all. For instance, many of the modern action movies will incorporate it in at least a few scenes to make apparently dangerous situations safer for the actors. Another place where you'll see chroma key every day, is during the weather forecast at the end of a news broadcast.

So what is chroma key? It's the process whereby a particular colour is removed from a shot. This usually involves cutting out the background, making it transparent and putting a different image or video behind it so that the remaining foreground appears to be in a different location. The colours used for this process are either green or blue, which is why this process is also known as a green or blue screen effect.

Why green or blue? If you look at a colour wheel, like the one in Mac OS X's colour palette, you'll notice that both these colours are the furthest away from our human skin tones. This makes it much easier to cut the colour out (also known as keying it out) without affecting the actor, their hair or clothing (it's therefore also very important that no green or blue is worn, otherwise those could be accidentally cut out too, or result in much more work in post-production to get the clothing back).

You may have noticed that *iMovie '09* introduced many advanced features including one called Green Screen. Having this effect available in a simple consumer program may lead you to believe that it's so easy even novice users can have a crack at it. However, this is only partly true: once you've set up your scene properly, the process of keying the colour out can be incredibly simple, but if you're not sure what you're doing, you may end up spending long hours in your special effects program just to try and fix the situation.

> *"So what is chroma key? It refers to the process whereby a particular colour is removed from a shot"*

If you're curious about green screen effects or if you're looking for a few pointers to help you get even better results on a tight budget, this article is for you. We'll be introducing you to the equipment you'll need and help you find affordable alternatives to most of the professional gear required to achieve a good setup. You'll see that doing a green screen effect isn't something that is beyond your financial means or filmmaking skills: you could end up with extremely convincing shots that are incredibly easy to edit, be it in *Final Cut* or even *iMovie*.

Choose your colour

Although you can work with either blue or green, the *iMovie* effect is only compatible with the latter, so for the sake of compatibility, we'll be focusing our attention solely on green. But if you're not going to be using *iMovie*, feel free to work with whichever of the two colours you can get your hands on. So how do you get started?

If you've got a clear wall and you're going to be doing a lot of green screen work, you could think of buying some chroma key paint. You do need specialised paint to get the right colour and it mustn't be very reflective otherwise any light you shine onto it will bounce back and potentially bleed onto the foreground, making it more difficult to isolate.

But if having a bright green wall will clash with the rest of your living room, then you need to find a more temporary solution. This is where cloth comes in. You can purchase muslin cloth for this very purpose and a chroma key setup will often include a stand as well. Muslin is most often used since it's very durable, doesn't reflect much light or fray easily. You

The green screen effect can whisk away your actor literally to anywhere you like.

HOW TO / Acquire the equipment you need

So how much will all this equipment cost you? If you go for the cheapest options of bed sheets and household lamps, you may already have all you need. It really obviously depends on how far you're willing to go and also how many green screen shots you'll be shooting. If this is going to become a regular addition to your projects, then you should really invest in some equipment that won't force you to rearrange your house every time you set up your film studio. If you're on a budget, look around: you may get lucky and find some good quality secondhand equipment. Failing that, everything can be found online.

Let's start with eBay (**www.ebay.co.uk**) where you'll be able to find most of the goods described in this article. Make sure the provider you'll be using is based in the UK. If you're not careful, you could end up paying a small fortune in delivery fees, not to mention customs duty.

You can find a heavy duty green screen backdrop with its own stand for only £120, three 800 watt red heads with barn doors and a carry case for £300, and even a Red Head Lighting Dimmer for £50.

Tesco Direct (**http://direct.tesco.com**) is a great place to source 1000 Watt Twin Head Halogen Work Lights for around £25. For chroma key paint, 10 Out of 10 Productions (**www.10outof10.co.uk**) offers a range of options, but it isn't cheap: it will cost you £370 for around 19 litres or £77 for nearly 4 litres.

Twin Head Halogen Work Lights can do wonders for your set illumination needs.

can find a stand and cloth combo at very reasonable prices. But if this is out of your budget, you could just as well use bed sheets. Just make sure that they're pure green, not lime green or dark green, as these would make it harder to remove in post-production. You could also use green tacks to pin it to the wall.

Getting a green wall is the easy part. The key to a great effect is lighting. Without it, you don't stand much hope of getting any decent results. Chroma keying requires a lot of light. First, you need to deal with the background.

Be careful to position your lighting otherwise you'll raise the spectre of unwanted shadows.

Watts of power

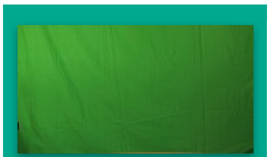
Most shops selling green screen cloths will also offer high-end lighting equipment which costs hundreds of pounds, but you can actually make do without them as there's a very effective alternative: halogen work lights. They're not very attractive, most often only available in yellow, but they also come supplied with their own stand, which is a bonus. A twin head work light will provide you with 1,000 watts of power, which is ample for your needs. Have one set on either side of your screen.

So much light will create unwanted shadows if you're too close to them. As a rule of thumb, try placing any people or objects you wish to shoot about 1.5 metres away from the screen. If they still produce shadows, either reposition the work lights or move further away from the screen. Having the work lights also roughly 1.5 meters away will have the added advantage of not affecting the actor too much, as all those lights and the heat that comes off them will mostly be behind them.

> *"A twin head work light will provide you with 1,000 watts of power, which is ample for your green screen needs"*

You now need to add additional lights to your setup since your foreground (be it an object or actor) also needs to be well lit. There are many ways you could achieve this. You could, for instance, use regular household incandescent lights and standard lamps. This is likely your most cost-effective solution since you're sure to have quite a few of those around your house. You can also use power-saving fluorescent light bulbs, but be aware that you may well need quite a few of those to get a decent result, since they don't produce as much light as the good old-fashioned light bulb. The problem with this option is that you can end

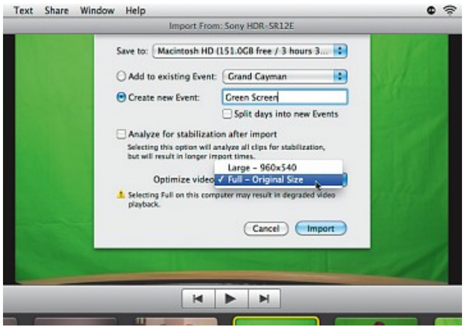
»



QUICK TIP

You need your backdrop to be as free of creases as possible, so your cloth will have to be quite taut. But it's easy to focus on a small area and forget about the rest of your backdrop. So always check what your stretching looks like on camera before moving onto another part.

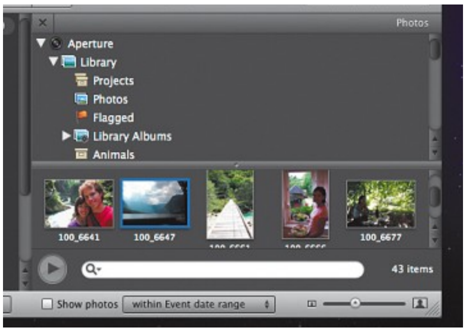
HOW TO / Use the Green Screen effect in iMovie



Save to: Macintosh HD (151.0GB free / 3 hours 3...
○ Add to existing Event: Grand Cayman
● Create new Event: Green Screen
☐ Split days into new Events
☐ Analyze for stabilization after import
Selecting this option will analyze all clips for stabilization, but will result in longer import times.
Optimize video: ✓ Full – Original Size
Selecting Full on this computer may result in degraded video playback.

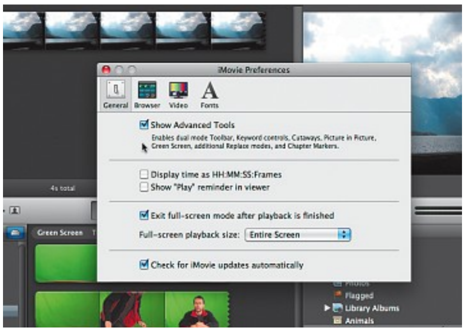
01 Import footage

Once you've recorded your scene, import your footage and add it to an **Event** (or create a new one for this very purpose). Make sure you choose the same resolution you shot your footage at during the import process so that the image is as close to the original as possible.



02 Add the backdrop

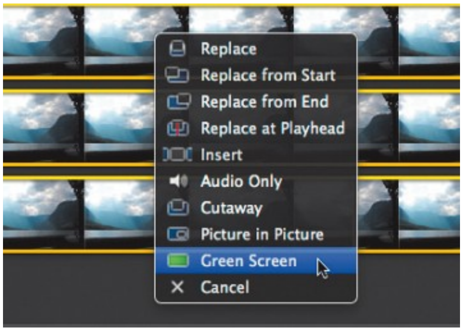
Select a clip you'd like to use as a backdrop. You can choose either a video clip (for best results it needs to have been recorded using a static camera, like one mounted on a tripod, for instance) or a still image from *iPhoto* or *Aperture*, but don't forget to disable its **Ken Burns** effect.



☑ Show Advanced Tools
Enables dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.
☐ Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
☐ Show "Play" reminder in viewer
☑ Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback size: Entire Screen
☑ Check for iMovie updates automatically

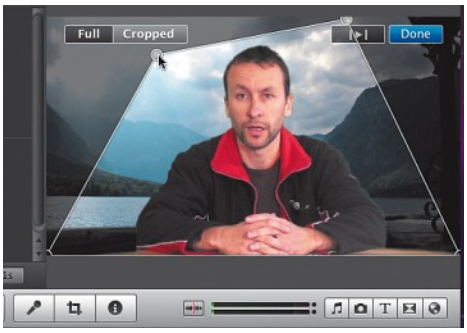
03 The Advanced Tools

Before you can proceed further, go to the menu bar, click on **iMovie** and select the **Preferences** option (you can also open this window with the ⌘+, keyboard shortcut). Make sure the **Advanced Tools** tick box is selected, then get back to your project.



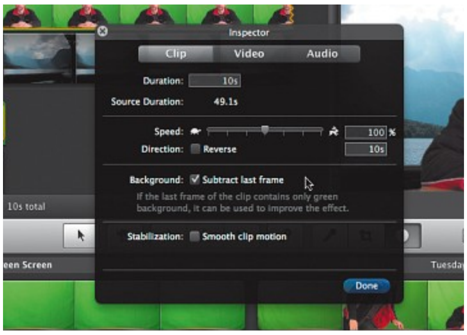
04 Green Screen

Select the green screen shot from your **Event Library** and drag it over the backdrop clip. As you let go of the mouse, a menu pops up. Click **Green Screen**. The clip will then be placed above the existing one and its green background will have been removed automatically.



05 Crop your clip

Click on the green screen clip to select it. You'll notice the main preview window offers you some cropping options. Drag the edges to remove any potential artefact. You can't alter this crop over time, so make sure your foreground isn't affected for the entire clip.



Duration: 10s
Source Duration: 49.1s
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse
Background: ☑ Subtract last frame
If the last frame of the clip contains only green background, it can be used to improve the effect.
Stabilization: ☐ Smooth clip motion

06 Just the backdrop

Double-click the green screen clip to reveal the **Inspector** window. If you ended your shot with no one in the foreground, just the empty green background, tick the **Subtract last frame** tick box. This will help remove artefacts and improve the edges around your actor. ●

QUICK TIP

Due to lighting, your studio can get hot very quickly. Make sure you only switch the lights on during your shoot, otherwise you'll feel like you're in a sauna.

up with a mess of cables all over your set as you use every existing power point in your home to light your subject. The choice is yours.

An alternative would be to go for a professional lighting setup. There are many advantages to this: the bulbs are very long-lasting, you can produce a lot of illumination with a single light and they often come with fixtures like barn doors, so you can narrow the beam or otherwise control where the light goes, which isn't something you can easily do with household lamps.

The downside to pro lighting is cost, but if you're serious about chroma keying or filmmaking, it's a worthwhile investment. Red heads usually come in a set of three and aren't the latest and greatest when it comes to lighting technology, but they're tried and true and they cost a lot less than more modern alternatives. You could even get lucky and find some second hand. There's a downside to them though: they can only be set to full power. You can buy dimmer switches for them but like everything else in this world, there's a trade-off: you'll be able to vary the intensity of the light, but dimmers often produce a lot of buzzing noise. If audio is crucial to your shot, you'll have to muffle the dimmer somehow or get a long lead and use a socket in another room, away from your set.

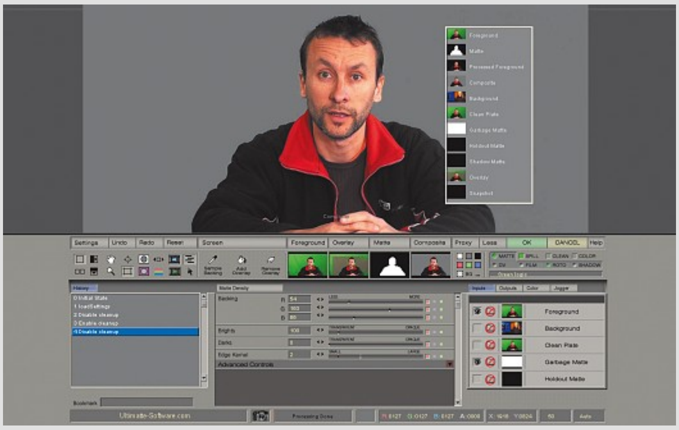
> *"The downside to pro lighting is cost, but if you're serious about chroma keying, it's a good investment"*

Alternatively, you can use gels to diffuse the light. Think of gels as industrial-strength fire-retardant tracing paper. You place this in front of your red head (you could even attach them to its barn doors, for instance) to soften the glare. The

HOW TO / Use third-party post-production tools

The filters that come bundled with *Final Cut* do an adequate job, but you can tell that the technology behind them is over a decade old when *iMovie '09* can end up yielding better results in less time. *Motion*'s more advanced technology redresses the balance, but you may still notice some problems around the edges and more than likely with your actor's hair. Flat hair will most often be fine, but look closely at wavy or curly hair and you'll notice that a lot of the detail has either been cut out along with the backdrop, or is still there, surrounded by a faint green glow. If you have loftier goals beyond home movies, you need to look elsewhere for your post-production needs.

Thankfully, other companies offer better alternatives. DV Garage has *DVMatte Pro Studio 3*, a series of four filters that get extremely good results. You can download a trial version from **www.dvgarage.com** or buy it for US$199 (around £130). If you're serious about post-production work and are looking for the best, consider Ultimatte's *Ultimatte RT* and *Ultimatte AdvantEdge* (**www.ultimatte-software.com**). The latter offers a huge amount of options but the former is simpler and could suit most of your needs. The results of either are staggering. The downside is the price: US$565 for *Ultimatte RT* and US$1,345 for *AdvantEdge*. But if you're interested, you can get a $30 or $50 discount respectively. Email **tim@Ultimatte-Software.com** and quote this coupon: MFult50/30. This offer expires 30 of November 2010, so download the demo and give it a try.



The post-production options are immense, but consider your software budget.

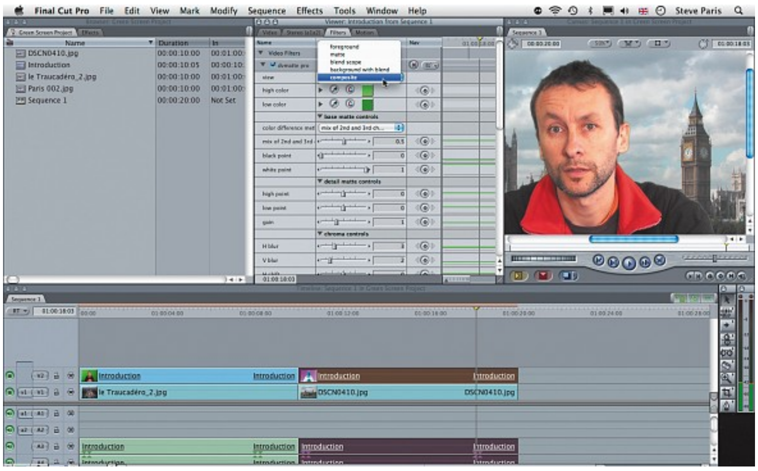
more layers you add, the more diffuse the light becomes. You may find you'll need two red heads to light your subject well. This leaves you with a spare one.

You can treat it as an emergency backup in case one fails, or place it behind and above your green backdrop. Shining it onto your subject's back will help further define its edges, making your post-production work even easier.

Stationary platform

In order for the effect to work, you'll need to use a static shot, which means you'll have to rest your camera on a immobile surface. You could use a tripod for that, or rest your camcorder on a table, chair, high stool – whatever will work for your setup. Moving the camera during the shoot will ruin the illusion, since both the foreground and background – shot at different times – would have to move at the same time and at the same rate of speed, which is not something regular people with ordinary equipment can achieve – yet. Don't be concerned if you can see the edges of the green screen in your shot: as long as the foreground you wish to keep is safely contained within the backdrop, you can easily crop your footage in post-production using any video editing application.

Before you start shooting anything properly, do a few test runs using different setups to find which one works best for you. You can then take this footage to your Mac and see which is the easiest one to key out.



DV Matte Pro offers higher quality results compared to Final Cut's default options.

If your Mac is relatively recent, you may already have some basic software you could use to do some chroma keying with *iMovie '09*. It offers hardly any options but if you do your setup properly, you'll see that it works incredibly well. You can find out more in the opposite six-step tutorial. If *iMovie* is too limiting, your next option would be *Final Cut Express* or *Final Cut Pro*. Both use the same technology when it comes to filters and both have the same default keying effects built-in. If you own *Final Cut Studio*, have a play with *Motion* as it possesses more modern and advanced technology, and the results are often better than the venerable *Final Cut* program.

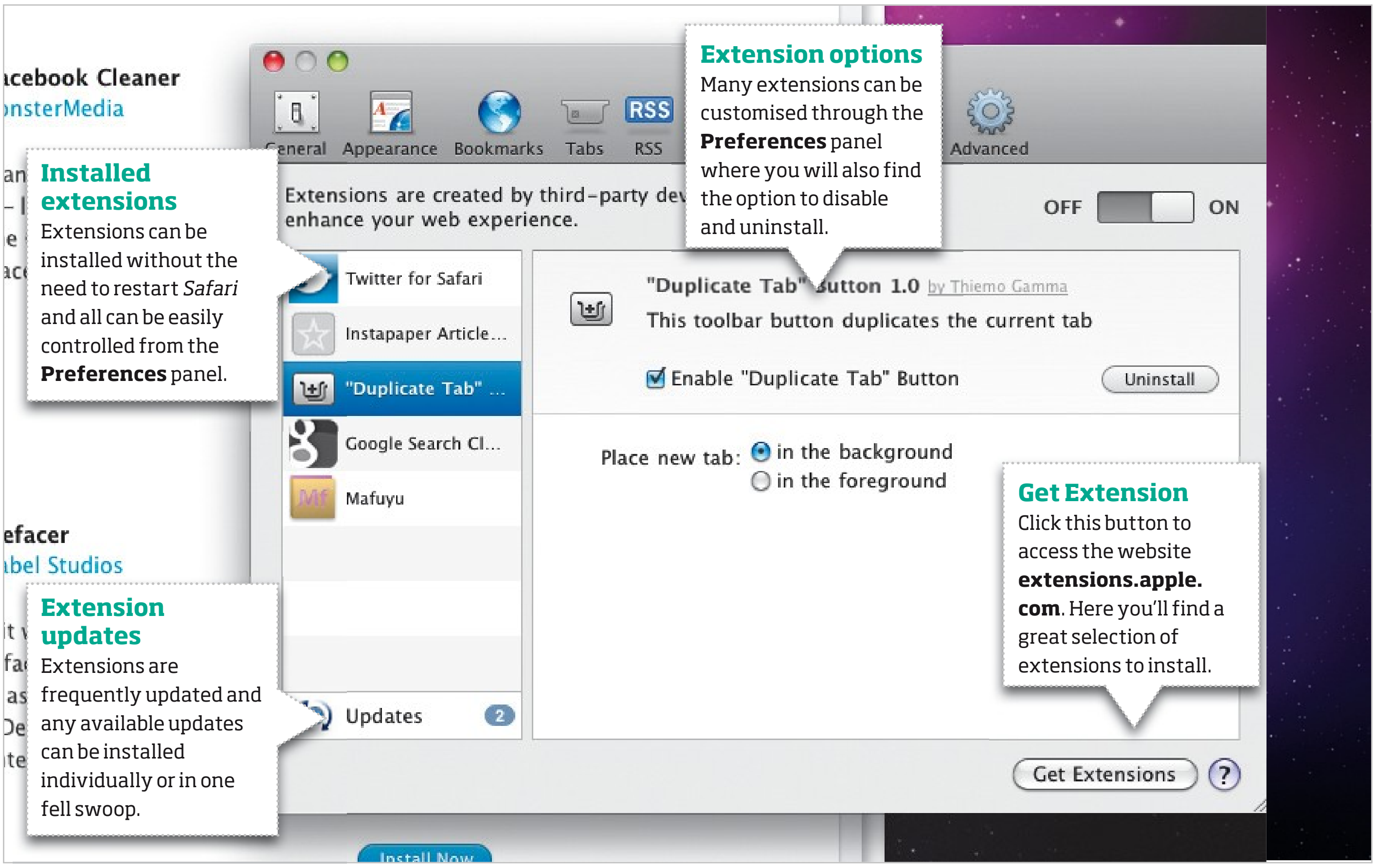
> *"Before you start a shoot, try a few test runs using different setups to find which works best for you"*

Working with software in post-production would deserve a whole article to itself, but you'll find that if you follow the above advice, you'll have done most of the work during the actual shoot, making the keying process much easier than it could have been. Good luck!

Steve Paris

QUICK TIP

When working with chroma key, it's easy to focus on your clip one frame at a time, but don't forget that this is video. Always play your footage back as you make changes to make sure the effect looks as it should. Sometimes, the backdrop itself can help conceal many keying flaws.



Extensions are created by third-party dev… enhance your web experience.

"Duplicate Tab" button 1.0 by Thiemo Gamma

This toolbar button duplicates the current tab

☑ Enable "Duplicate Tab" Button

Place new tab: ● in the background ○ in the foreground

Extension options
Many extensions can be customised through the **Preferences** panel where you will also find the option to disable and uninstall.

Installed extensions
Extensions can be installed without the need to restart *Safari* and all can be easily controlled from the **Preferences** panel.

Get Extension
Click this button to access the website **extensions.apple.com**. Here you'll find a great selection of extensions to install.

Extension updates
Extensions are frequently updated and any available updates can be installed individually or in one fell swoop.

Safari Extensions Gallery

Make the most of Safari 5.0.1 by installing a range of extra features

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Easy

TIME NEEDED: 45 minutes

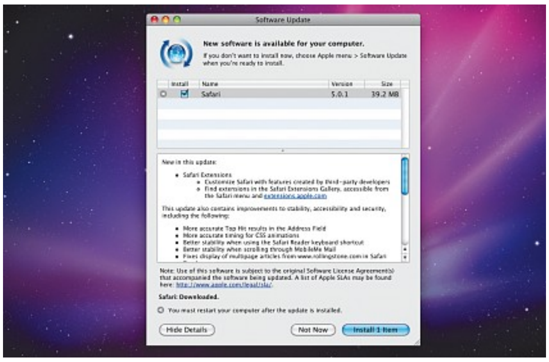
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Safari 5.0.1

Extensions, plugins and add-ons have become a standard feature of almost all modern web browsers, and the release of *Safari 5.0.1* sees this option added to Apple's own browser. While support for extensions did exist in *Safari 5*, this was only officially available to developers; now everyone can take advantage of extensions that add new and exciting features to *Safari* and help to make the web more usable.

A new Safari Extensions Gallery (http://extensions.apple.com/) can be used to browse through the extensions available, which add all manner of features and options to *Safari*. The installation of an extension needs nothing more than a mouse click, and you don't have to restart *Safari* either. As soon as an extension has been downloaded and installed, it's ready to use.

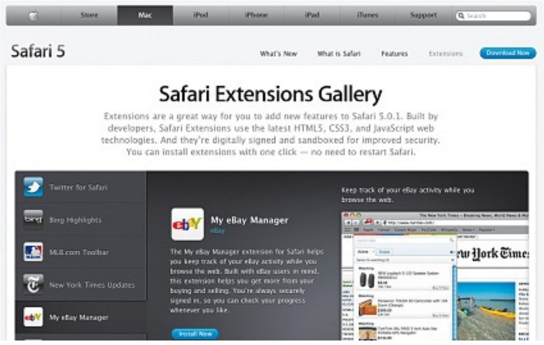
As *Safari* is a web browser, most of the extensions available have a strong internet focus. This may mean that a particular extension provides easy access to a certain website, or makes it easier to use online tools and services. In this tutorial we'll show you how to get started installing and using extensions, and highlight some of the best that are currently available.

Mark Wilson



01 Updating Safari

It is likely that your copy of *Safari* will have been automatically updated to the latest version, but it is worth checking just to make sure. Click the menu and select Software Update. When the update check has been performed, ensure the box is ticked next to the entry for *Safari* and then click the install button at the bottom of the dialog. When the installation is complete, your computer will need to be restarted, so save any open files.


Store
Mac
iPod
iPhone
iPad
iTunes
Support
Search
Safari 5
What's New
What is Safari
Features
Extensions
Download Now
Twitter for Safari
Bing Highlights
MLB.com Toolbar
New York Times Updates
My eBay Manager
Install Now

Safari Extensions Gallery

Extensions are a great way for you to add new features to Safari 5.0.1. Built by developers, Safari Extensions use the latest HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript web technologies. And they're digitally signed and sandboxed for improved security. You can install extensions with one click — no need to restart Safari.

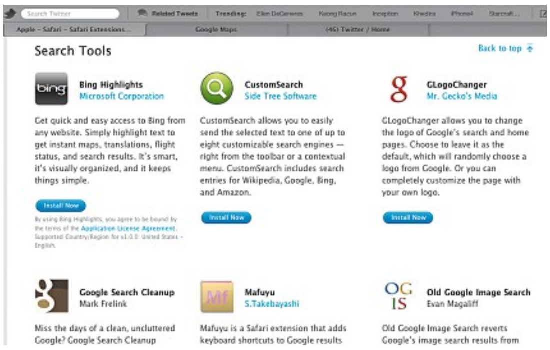
Keep track of your eBay activity while you browse the web.

My eBay Manager

The My eBay Manager extension for Safari helps you keep track of your eBay activity while you browse the web. Built with eBay users in mind, this extension helps you get more from your buying and selling. You're always securely signed in, so you can check your progress whenever you like.

02 Extensions gallery

To start browsing through some of the extensions available, launch *Safari* once it has been updated, click the **Safari** menu and select **Safari Extensions Gallery**. This will take you to the Safari Extensions Gallery website, where you can find out more about the featured extensions or search others by category.


Search Twitter
Related Tweets
Trending:
Apple – Safari – Safari Extensions...
Google Maps
(46) Twitter / Home
Back to top
Install Now
Install Now
Install Now

Search Tools

Bing Highlights
Microsoft Corporation

Get quick and easy access to Bing from any website. Simply highlight text to get instant maps, translations, flight status, and search results. It's smart, it's visually organized, and it keeps things simple.

CustomSearch
Side Tree Software

CustomSearch allows you to easily send the selected text to one of up to eight customizable search engines — right from the toolbar or a contextual menu. CustomSearch includes search entries for Wikipedia, Google, Bing, and Amazon.

GLogoChanger
Mr. Gecko's Media

GLogoChanger allows you to change the logo of Google's search and home pages. Choose to leave it as the default, which will randomly choose a logo from Google. Or you can completely customize the page with your own logo.

Google Search Cleanup
Mark Frelink

Miss the days of a clean, uncluttered Google? Google Search Cleanup

Mafuyu
S.Takebayashi

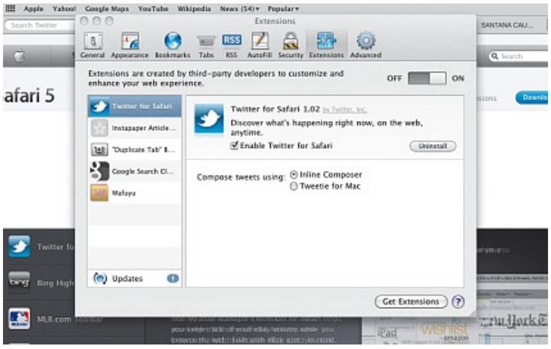
Mafuyu is a Safari extension that adds keyboard shortcuts to Google results

Old Google Image Search
Evan Magaliff

Old Google Image Search reverts Google's image search results from

03 Installing extensions

When you have found an extension you would like to add, click the **Install Now** button that appears by the description. There will be a pause while the extension is downloaded and installed, and then a green **Installed** label will appear. Extensions can be installed without the need to restart *Safari*, so several can be installed at once.


Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (54)
Popular
Extensions
General
Appearance
Bookmarks
Tabs
RSS
AutoFill
Security
Extensions
Advanced
OFF
ON
Twitter for Safari
Instapaper Article...
"Duplicate Tab" B...
Google Search Cl...
Mafuyu
Updates
Uninstall
Get Extensions

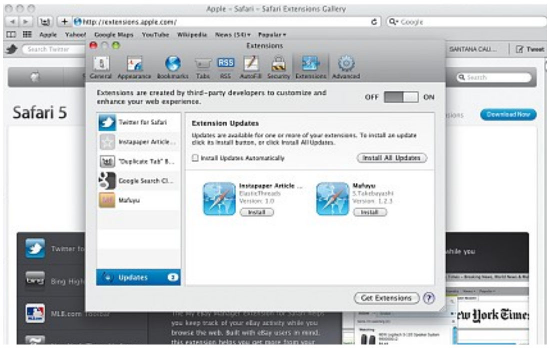
Extensions are created by third-party developers to customize and enhance your web experience.

Twitter for Safari 1.02 by Twitter, Inc.
Discover what's happening right now, on the web, anytime.
☑ Enable Twitter for Safari

Compose tweets using: ● Inline Composer ○ Tweetie for Mac

04 Extension options

Many extensions have options that can be adjusted to change the way they look or function. Click the *Safari* menu and select **Preferences** before clicking **Extensions**. The options will vary, and you may have to enter details for online accounts, choose a frequency of data refreshing or choose how an extension looks and works.


Apple – Safari – Safari Extensions Gallery
http://extensions.apple.com/
Extensions
General
Appearance
Bookmarks
Tabs
RSS
AutoFill
Security
Extensions
Advanced
OFF
ON
Safari 5
Twitter for Safari
Instapaper Article...
"Duplicate Tab" B...
Google Search Cl...
Mafuyu
Updates
Install All Updates
Install
Install
Get Extensions

Extensions are created by third-party developers to customize and enhance your web experience.

Extension Updates

Updates are available for one or more of your extensions. To install an update click its Install button, or click Install All Updates.

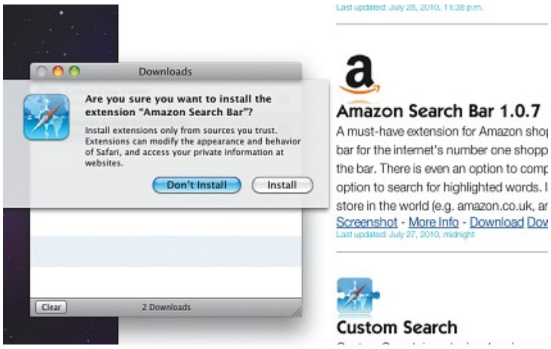
☐ Install Updates Automatically

Instapaper Article ...
ElasticThreads
Version: 1.0

Mafuyu
S.Takebayashi
Version: 1.2.3

05 Updating extensions

Updates are released for browser extensions. In the **Extensions** section of **Preferences**, if updates are available, an indication will appear at the bottom of the list of installed extensions. Click this notification followed by the **Install All Updates** to update all extensions, or click the install button for individual extensions.


Downloads
Don't Install
Install
Clear
2 Downloads
Screenshot
More Info
Download

Are you sure you want to install the extension "Amazon Search Bar"?

Install extensions only from sources you trust. Extensions can modify the appearance and behavior of Safari, and access your private information at websites.

Last updated: July 28, 2010, 11:38 p.m.

Amazon Search Bar 1.0.7

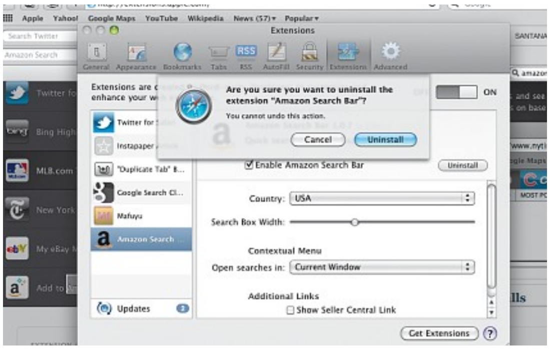
A must-have extension for Amazon shop bar for the internet's number one shopp the bar. There is even an option to comp option to search for highlighted words. I store in the world (e.g. amazon.co.uk, ar

Last updated: July 27, 2010, midnight

Custom Search

06 Third party extensions

While the Extensions Gallery is a good way to find and install extensions, sites such as Safari Extensions (**www.safariextensions.org**) also provide links to downloads. Click **Download Now** and then double-click a download in the **Download** window, before clicking **Install** to complete the process.


Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (57)
Popular
Extensions
General
Appearance
Bookmarks
Tabs
RSS
AutoFill
Security
Extensions
Advanced
ON
Twitter for
Instapaper
"Duplicate Tab" B...
Google Search Cl...
Mafuyu
Amazon Search
Updates
Cancel
Uninstall
Uninstall
Get Extensions

Are you sure you want to uninstall the extension "Amazon Search Bar"?

You cannot undo this action.

☑ Enable Amazon Search Bar

Country: USA

Search Box Width:

Contextual Menu

Open searches in: Current Window

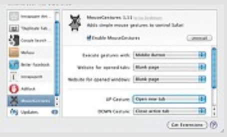
Additional Links

☐ Show Seller Central Link

07 Uninstalling extensions

If you change your mind about an extension, or find an alternative you would like to use, they can be uninstalled. Open the *Safari* **Preferences** panel and move to the **Extensions** tab. Select an extension from the list to the left of the dialog and click the **Uninstall** button to the right. Click the second **Uninstall** button to confirm. ●

»EXPERT TIP



Extension highlights

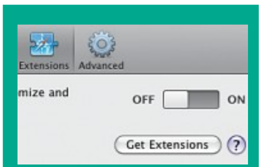
There are a number of *Safari* extensions worth noting, and more are being added all the time. There are extensions for everyone and here are some of the highlights.

Better Facebook – as the name suggests – is an extension designed to improve Facebook. Hide stories, add a message count and filter feeds.

InstapaperIt is a simple extension that makes it possible to send articles to your Instapaper account via the context menu.

AdBlock is a great way to clear unwanted clutter from your favourite websites, it strips away annoying adverts leaving you only with the content you're interested in.

MouseGestures makes it even easier to navigate *Safari* by using gestures to perform common actions with a flick of the mouse.


Extensions
Advanced
mize and
OFF
ON
Get Extensions

»QUICK TIP

All extensions can be temporarily disabled. Head to the **Extensions** section of **Preferences** and move the switch to the **Off** position. Move it back to **On** to re-enable extensions.

Keynote File Edit Insert Slide Format Arrange View Play Window Share Help
Mon 09:36
South Street
Slides
27 SOUTH STREET
Property and Rental Details - Summer 2010
Edit Mask
MacBook

You don't need an expensive graphics app to replace a background in Keynote.

Change a photo's background

Take advantage of one of Keynote's most powerful features to adjust photos

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Keynote (part of Apple's iWork '09 suite), digital photos to work with

Many people hail *Photoshop* as the king of all photo editors, but you don't need such an expensive piece of software to perform one of its best tricks: background removal. While Adobe's professional tool does provide some excellent ways to cut out unwanted sections of an image, *Keynote* has a powerful feature of its own – known as Instant Alpha – that will do the same job in most instances.

This nifty feature is available from *Keynote*'s Format menu and enables you to quickly cut out sections of an image by dragging your cursor over the area you want to remove. The process isn't the same as cloning, where the software attempts to fill in the offending area. Instant Alpha looks at the colours you are selecting and removes them from the image, leaving a transparent space and keeping the rest of the image intact. Because of this, it's best to work with large clean areas of background colour when cutting out images, otherwise you might end up inadvertently removing parts of your foreground image too.

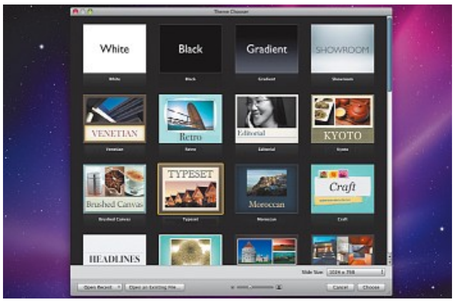
In this tutorial, we're going to remove a rather dull background from behind a row of houses in one of *Keynote*'s default images and replace it with a more interesting skyline of our own. You can follow the guide and use one of your own photos as the background, but also make sure to experiment with other uses of Instant Alpha such as removing a background from an image so that it can sit above your slide without blocking text and any other elements.

> *"Quickly cut out sections of an image by dragging your cursor over the area you want to remove"*

Remember to save your project frequently; should you make a mistake, you can jump back quickly and fix things, but also remember that you can hit ⌘+Z at any time during your Instant Alpha work to undo the last action you performed.

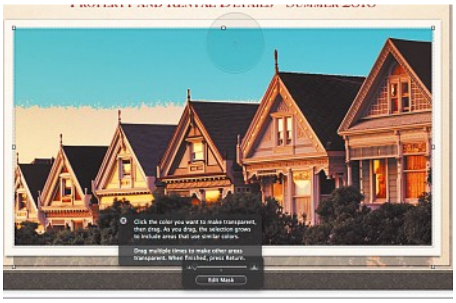
Ben Harvell

HOW TO / Change a photo's background with Instant Alpha


White
Black
Gradient
SHOWROOM
VENETIAN
Retro
Editorial
KYOTO
TYPESET
Brushed Canvas
Moroccan
Craft
HEADLINES

01 Select your image

For the purpose of this tutorial we've selected the **Typeset** *Keynote* theme and loaded the **Photo - Horizontal** slide template from the **Masters** menu at the top of the *Keynote* interface. This slide has a row of houses with a simple clean background for us

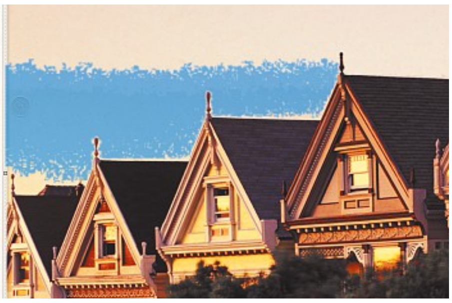


Click the color you want to make transparent, then drag. As you drag, the selection grows to include areas that use similar colors.

Drag multiple times to make other areas transparent. When finished, press Return.

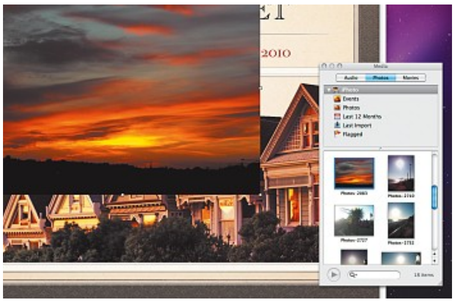
02 Enter Instant Alpha

In order to swap backgrounds we need to first remove the existing background. Click on the image then select **Instant Alpha** under the **Format** menu. Drag the cursor across the background, making sure the blue area only covers the background and not the houses.



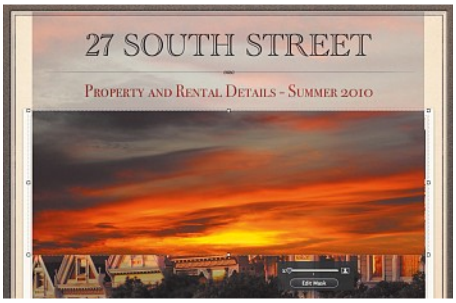
03 Fine tuning

Some areas close to the foreground may not have been made transparent by **Instant Alpha**. Zoom in using ⇧+⌥ and . and apply small amounts of **Instant Alpha** to these areas until the background has gone completely, making sure not to touch the foreground image.


2010
Audio
Photos
Movies
Events
Photos
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged

04 Add a new background

Locate an image with a background you would like to add from the *Finder* or use the **Media Browser** in *Keynote*. Drag the image into your project, making sure that it's outside the field for your existing image and select **Mask with Shape** from the **Format** menu.


27 SOUTH STREET
PROPERTY AND RENTAL DETAILS - SUMMER 2010
Edit Mask

05 Mask your image

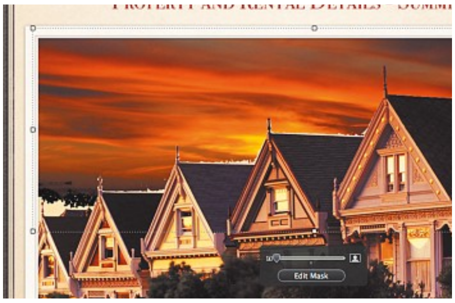
The next thing to do is position your background image above the original and use the mask to crop it down to size. It's best to use a rectangle as a mask so that you can fit it exactly over the original image and replace the entire background.

Office Policy

- Ensure prompt arrival
- Keep all office spaces tidy
- Return all media to the office library
- Shut down computer after each day
- Use recycling bins provided

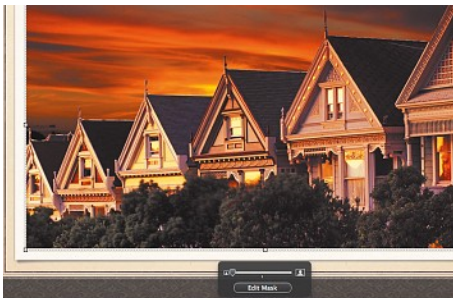
QUICK TIP

You can make as many passes using **Instant Alpha** as you wish to remove a background. When a background has a more complex set of colours it's worth zooming in and using **Instant Alpha** to remove the background piece by piece.


PROPERTY AND RENTAL DETAILS - SUMM
Edit Mask

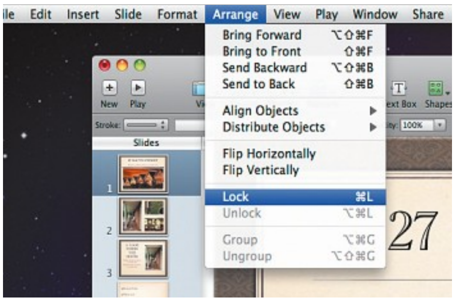
06 Send it back

Now select your new background and click on **Send to Back** from the **Arrange** menu. This will move it behind your existing image and make it appear as a background. Then select it and edit the mask if need be to create the perfect fit for the image.



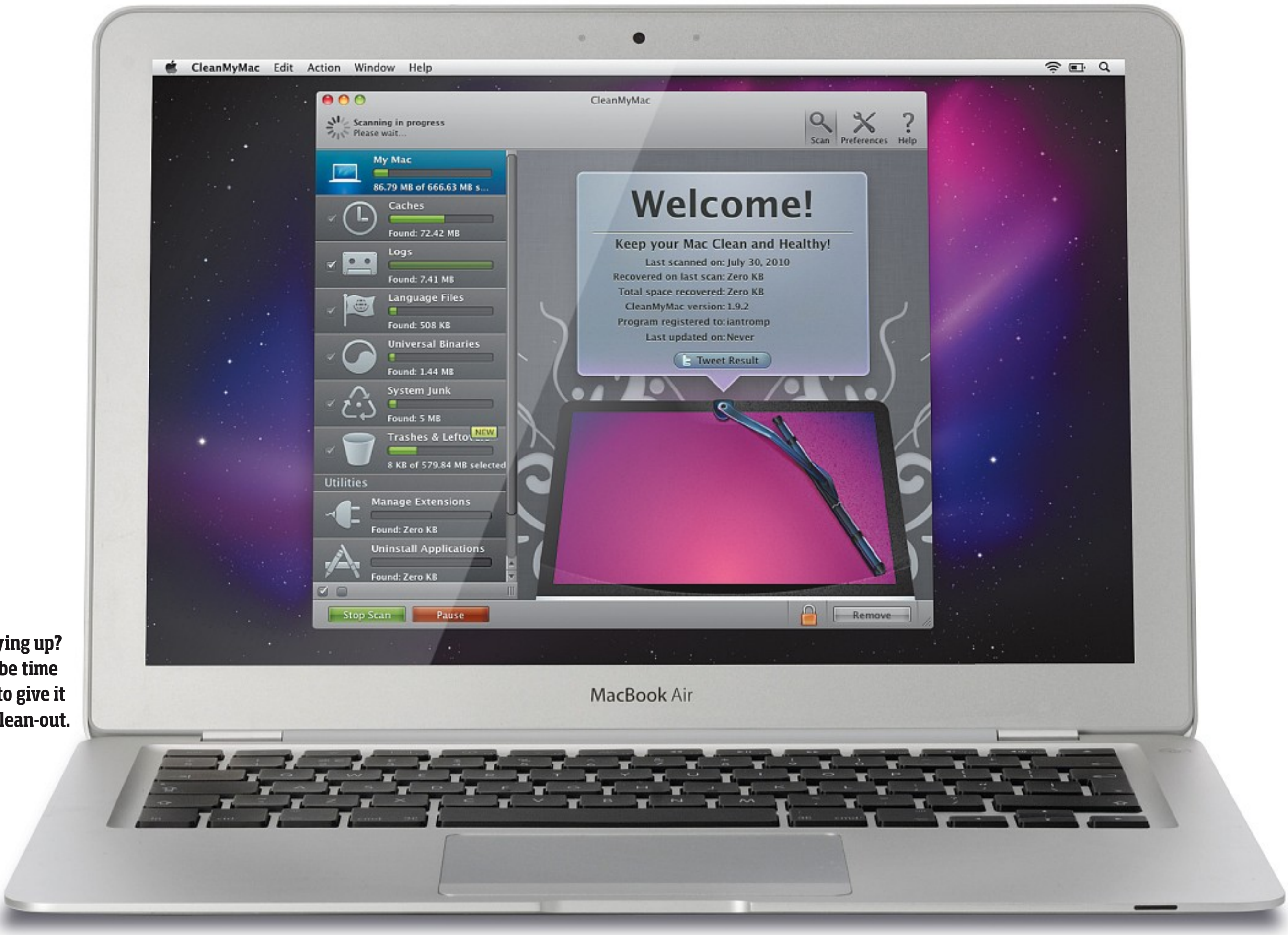
07 Final adjustments

You may notice areas that need a little more **Instant Alpha** work once the background is in place. If so, click on the original image to select it and apply **Instant Alpha** to these sections. With the original image selected, hold the ⌘ key and click on the new background.


ile
Edit
Insert
Slide
Format
Arrange
View
Play
Window
Share
Bring Forward ⌥⇧⌘F
Bring to Front ⇧⌘F
Send Backward ⌥⇧⌘B
Send to Back ⇧⌘B
Align Objects
Distribute Objects
Flip Horizontally
Flip Vertically
Lock ⌘L
Unlock ⌥⌘L
Group ⌥⌘G
Ungroup ⌥⇧⌘G
New
Play
Stroke:
Slides
ext Box
Shapes
100%
27

08 Lock it down

To reduce the chance of moving either image accidentally, select **Lock** from the **Arrange** menu, which will fix the position of both images on the slide to prevent them from moving until they are unlocked. You can also unlock an image from the **Arrange** menu. ●



My Mac
86.79 MB of 666.63 MB s...
Caches
Found: 72.42 MB
Logs
Found: 7.41 MB
Language Files
Found: 508 KB
Universal Binaries
Found: 1.44 MB
System Junk
Found: 5 MB
Trashes & Leftov...
8 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Manage Extensions
Found: Zero KB
Uninstall Applications
Found: Zero KB

Welcome!
Keep your Mac Clean and Healthy!
Last scanned on: July 30, 2010
Recovered on last scan: Zero KB
Total space recovered: Zero KB
CleanMyMac version: 1.9.2
Program registered to: iantromp
Last updated on: Never

Mac playing up? It could be time for you to give it a good clean-out.

Clean up your Mac

Use CleanMyMac to free up space and keep things running smoothly

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.4.11 or higher
CleanMyMac (http://macpaw.com/cleanmymac)

>> ON THE DISC

There's a trial of *CleanMyMac* on your disc.

You know how flat surfaces attract junk? Do tables, armrests, and bookshelves in your house quickly become covered in mail, books, keys, kids' toys and coffee mugs? There's lots of advice out there on how to declutter your home, but the truth is that your computer can also quite easily get cluttered up with junk.

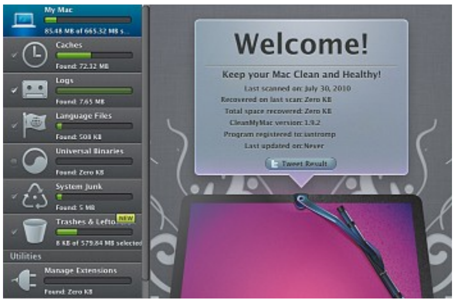
You might have old log files, remainders of apps installed and then removed, browser caches and histories dating back years, and a bunch of other stuff languishing on your Mac. Much of it is harmless, though some can cause problems. And anyway, just as living in a house full of clutter eventually becomes a problem for most people, you might feel that it's time to freshen things up a bit. At very least, you're likely to be able to reclaim some disk space.

There are some simple steps you can take yourself, such as emptying the Trash and clearing cookies and caches in your web browsers, and there are some things that your Mac's built-in maintenance scripts will look after. But every now and then even the most fastidious Mac user can do with some help.

> *"You might have old log files, remainders of apps installed and then removed, caches dating back years..."*

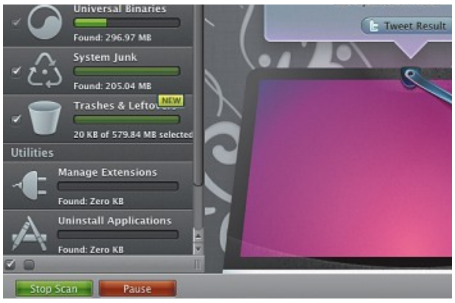
CleanMyMac is one of several apps that can make the job of tidying up your computer much simpler. We've chosen it because it automates the process so well, because it's good looking, and because it's powerful: it cleans in places some other apps just can't reach. Now, before you go any further, we want you to go run a backup – this is really important, because sometimes things go wrong, and so you need to have a current backup to be safe. You have a solid backup strategy already, don't you? We thought you would – and that you'd at least be running regular *Time Machine* backups. Come back as soon as you've got that backup right up to date, and we'll get started...
Ian Tromp

HOW TO / Declutter your system using CleanMyMac


My Mac
Caches
Logs
Language Files
Universal Binaries
System Junk
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
Utilities
Manage Extensions
Welcome!
Keep your Mac Clean and Healthy!
Tweet Result

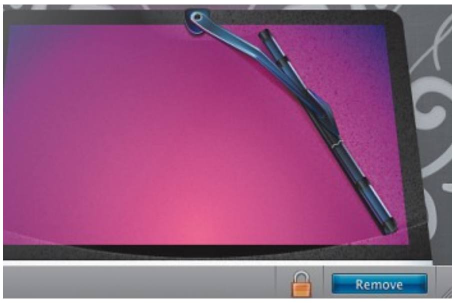
01 Choose your scans

When *CleanMyMac* starts up, by default it's set to scan all six of the areas it's concerned with: **Caches**, **Logs**, **Language Files**, **Universal Binaries**, **System Junk**, and **Trashes & Leftovers**. De-select any of these by unticking the boxes to the left of each section.


Universal Binaries
Found: 296.97 MB
System Junk
Found: 205.04 MB
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
20 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Utilities
Manage Extensions
Found: Zero KB
Uninstall Applications
Found: Zero KB
Tweet Result
Stop Scan
Pause

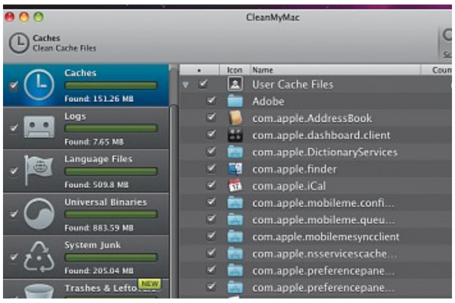
02 Put the kettle on

When you're ready to start, click **Scan**. Some sections will take longer than others (the longest is likely to be **Universal Binaries** as it investigates all the applications you have installed). It's probably time to make that cuppa you've been promising yourself.



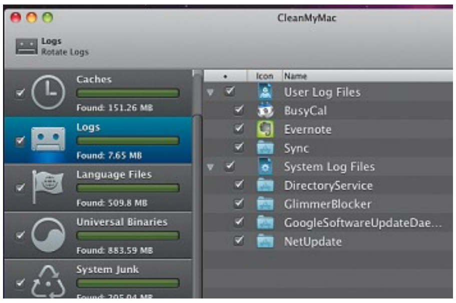
03 Check proposed changes

CleanMyMac will notify you when the scan is completed. You could now simply hit the **Remove** button and trust the app to get things right, but we'd recommend looking more closely at the changes it's proposing. Click on each of the sections to see more information.


CleanMyMac
Caches
Clean Cache Files
Caches
Found: 151.26 MB
Logs
Found: 7.65 MB
Language Files
Found: 509.8 MB
Universal Binaries
Found: 883.59 MB
System Junk
Found: 205.04 MB
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
Icon
Name
User Cache Files
Adobe
com.apple.AddressBook
com.apple.dashboard.client
com.apple.DictionaryServices
com.apple.finder
com.apple.iCal
com.apple.mobileme.confi...
com.apple.mobileme.queu...
com.apple.mobilemesyncclient
com.apple.nsservicescache...
com.apple.preferencepane...
com.apple.preferencepane...

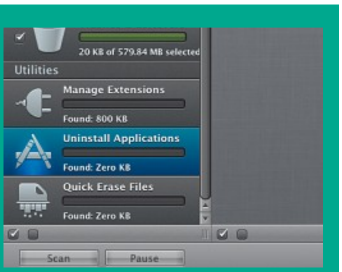
04 Cache clear-out

The **Caches** section cleans up stored data files that keep note of regularly accessed information. They can get corrupted, which may lead to odd behaviour or apps crashing. No harm should come from deleting these files. Besides, you have your backup, right?


CleanMyMac
Logs
Rotate Logs
Caches
Found: 151.26 MB
Logs
Found: 7.65 MB
Language Files
Found: 509.8 MB
Universal Binaries
Found: 883.59 MB
System Junk
Icon
Name
User Log Files
BusyCal
Evernote
Sync
System Log Files
DirectoryService
GlimmerBlocker
GoogleSoftwareUpdateDae...
NetUpdate

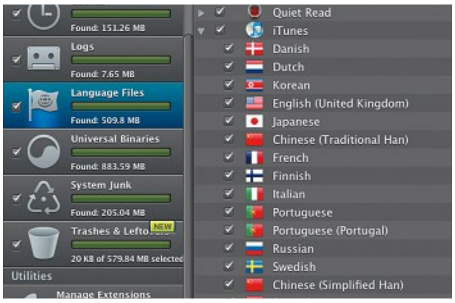
05 Too many logs

Logs keep records of various system events. They can be useful in working out issues, since most apps will write information to a log if anything goes wrong, but they mostly just keep track of the workings of your Mac as it goes about its business.


20 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Utilities
Manage Extensions
Found: 800 KB
Uninstall Applications
Found: Zero KB
Quick Erase Files
Found: Zero KB
Scan
Pause

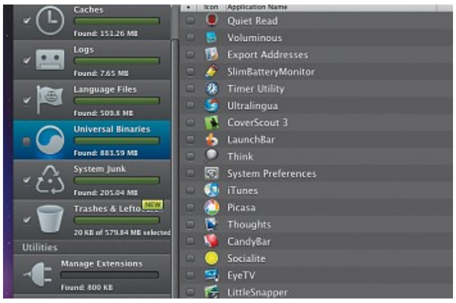
QUICK TIP

CleanMyMac includes three useful utilities: an application uninstaller (which will pop up whenever you remove an application), a secure file eraser, and a tool that helps remove unwanted widgets, preference panes and system plug-ins.


Found: 151.26 MB
Logs
Found: 7.65 MB
Language Files
Found: 509.8 MB
Universal Binaries
Found: 883.59 MB
System Junk
Found: 205.04 MB
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
20 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Utilities
Manage Extensions
Quiet Read
iTunes
Danish
Dutch
Korean
English (United Kingdom)
Japanese
Chinese (Traditional Han)
French
Finnish
Italian
Portuguese
Portuguese (Portugal)
Russian
Swedish
Chinese (Simplified Han)

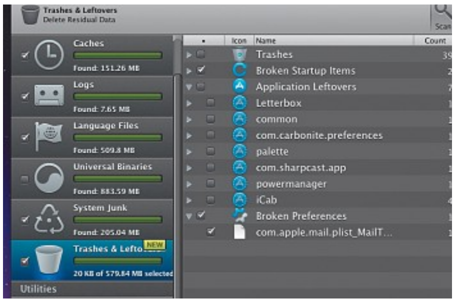
06 Language bin

A quick way to free up space is to remove unused **Language Files**. If you're only using English and that's not likely to change, you may as well remove translations. Click the disclosure triangles next to each app to select which languages to keep, and which to delete.


Caches
Found: 151.26 MB
Logs
Found: 7.65 MB
Language Files
Found: 509.8 MB
Universal Binaries
Found: 883.59 MB
System Junk
Found: 205.04 MB
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
20 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Utilities
Manage Extensions
Found: 800 KB
Icon
Application Name
Quiet Read
Voluminous
Export Addresses
SlimBatteryMonitor
Timer Utility
Ultralingua
CoverScout 3
LaunchBar
Think
System Preferences
iTunes
Picasa
Thoughts
CandyBar
Socialite
EyeTV
LittleSnapper

07 Binary caution

Universal Binaries is one section where we recommend caution. Binaries are bundles that run on both Intel and Power PC Macs; you can often get rid of the parts that you're not going to be using. But while some apps appear in this section's blacklist, newer ones won't…


Trashes & Leftovers
Delete Residual Data
Caches
Found: 151.26 MB
Logs
Found: 7.65 MB
Language Files
Found: 509.8 MB
Universal Binaries
Found: 883.59 MB
System Junk
Found: 205.04 MB
Trashes & Leftovers
NEW
20 KB of 579.84 MB selected
Utilities
Icon
Name
Count
Trashes
Broken Startup Items
Application Leftovers
Letterbox
common
com.carbonite.preferences
palette
com.sharpcast.app
powermanager
iCab
Broken Preferences
com.apple.mail.plist_MailT...

08 Pointless leftovers

System Junk refers to files that are created either for debugging or are detritus of some kind. **Trashes & Leftovers** are the contents of your Trash, along with bits and pieces of half-uninstalled apps and anything else that's needlessly taking up space. ●

iRig
Less than £30
+ AmpliTube Free for iPhone
AmpliTube
iRig
TOOLS
FX1
FX2
FX3
AMP
SONG
ADD AMP/FX
CRUNCH
LEAD
SLIDE FOR MORE CONTROLS
BYPASS
6.9
GAIN
BASS
MID
2x12"
4x12A"
PRESET
SETUP
ACCOUNT

Your Guitar Tone On Your iPhone

Introducing AmpliTube® iRig™ Take your Amps & Pedals anywhere with you on your iPhone/iPod/iPad

AmpliTube iRig is the unique combination of an ultra-compact plug-in adapter and a mobile app that turns your iPhone, iPod touch, iPad into the ultimate mobile guitar/bass tone and effects processor. Play anytime and everywhere with your favourite gear right on your iPhone, from the leaders of professional gear modelling software. Choose from up to 11 effects (including distortion, chorus, delay, wah, flanger and more), 5 amps, 5 cabinets, 2 microphones, all reconfigurable and fully "tweakable" to suit your sonic taste.

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Master Your Data!

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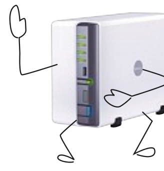

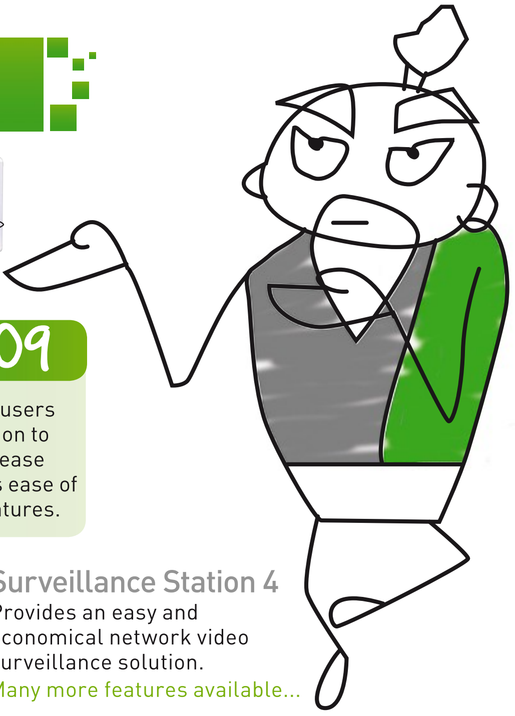

The DS109

Provides an easy way for users to deploy a 2.5" hard drive on the DS109, bringing the library quietness, power saving, and higher reliability.

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A high-performance and full-featured network attached storage solution that is specifically designed for home to business workgroup users.

The DS209

Designed to provide users with a flexible solution to share files and increase productivity. It delivers ease of use and variety of features.

Server Backup
Network Backup and Local Backup. Both allow you to back up data in the shared folders and databases.

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3 iPhone applications, DS audio, DS photo and DS cam are now available on Apple App Store.

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Provides an easy and economical network video surveillance solution.
Many more features available...

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>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Energy efficiency

Optimising the electricity bill now has its own preference pane

>> PROFILE

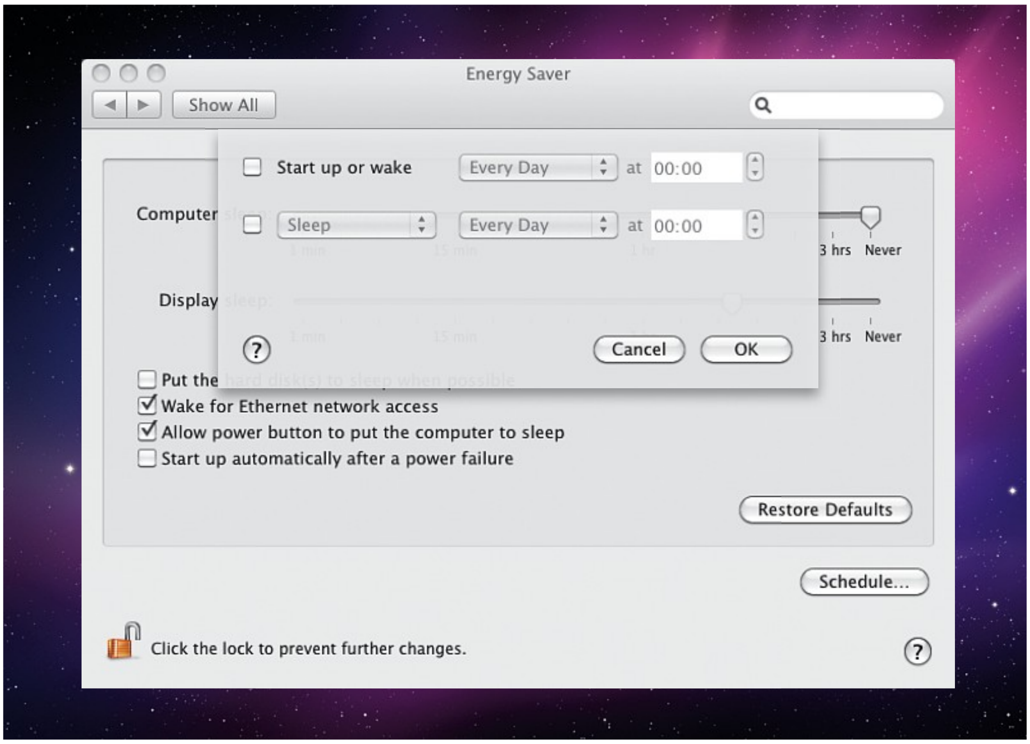
Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and househusband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2Ghz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Every three months or so I get a letter delivered; it is never welcome. I can almost tell what it is by the sound it makes hitting the doormat. The thud sends a shiver down my spine and it never signals good news. The electricity bill is not friendly correspondence. This is especially the case when you're running a Mac Pro with three monitors attached, a laser printer, an inkjet printer, two other family Macs and a PC just for good measure, as well as recharging iPods, iPhones and iPads. That's not saying anything for all the associated peripherals and non-Mac related electrical items running. As you can imagine, our electricity provider is happy to have us as customers.

However, a new initiative by our provider got me thinking: how could I reduce our electricity bill even just a little bit to ease the financial burden? There was the obvious switch to online billing, which saves paper and resources, but that alone was a little dull for my liking and didn't save us any money. Replacing the monitors with more energy-efficient LED backlit models was more up my street. We also invested in some plug sockets that you can turn off with a remote control so we didn't have to reach round the nether regions of stuff to turn it off.

"What about your computers?" asked Mrs Brennan with a tone that implied this was not an inquiry and more a call to action. Once I'd got over her referring to my Macs as 'computers', I had a bit of a think. I've just been leaving them on and letting them go to sleep if truth be told, and that's neither environmentally friendly nor wallet friendly.

> *"The electricity bill isn't friendly correspondence. This is especially the case when you're running a Mac Pro with three monitors attached..."*



☐ Start up or wake Every Day at 00:00
☐ Sleep Every Day at 00:00

☐ Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible
☑ Wake for Ethernet network access
☑ Allow power button to put the computer to sleep
☐ Start up automatically after a power failure

The Energy Saving options in System Preferences in Mac OS X are simple, but can be a money saver.

Mac OS X has some nifty energy saving options and, cunningly, they're found in *System Preferences* (Apple menu > System Preferences > Energy Saver).

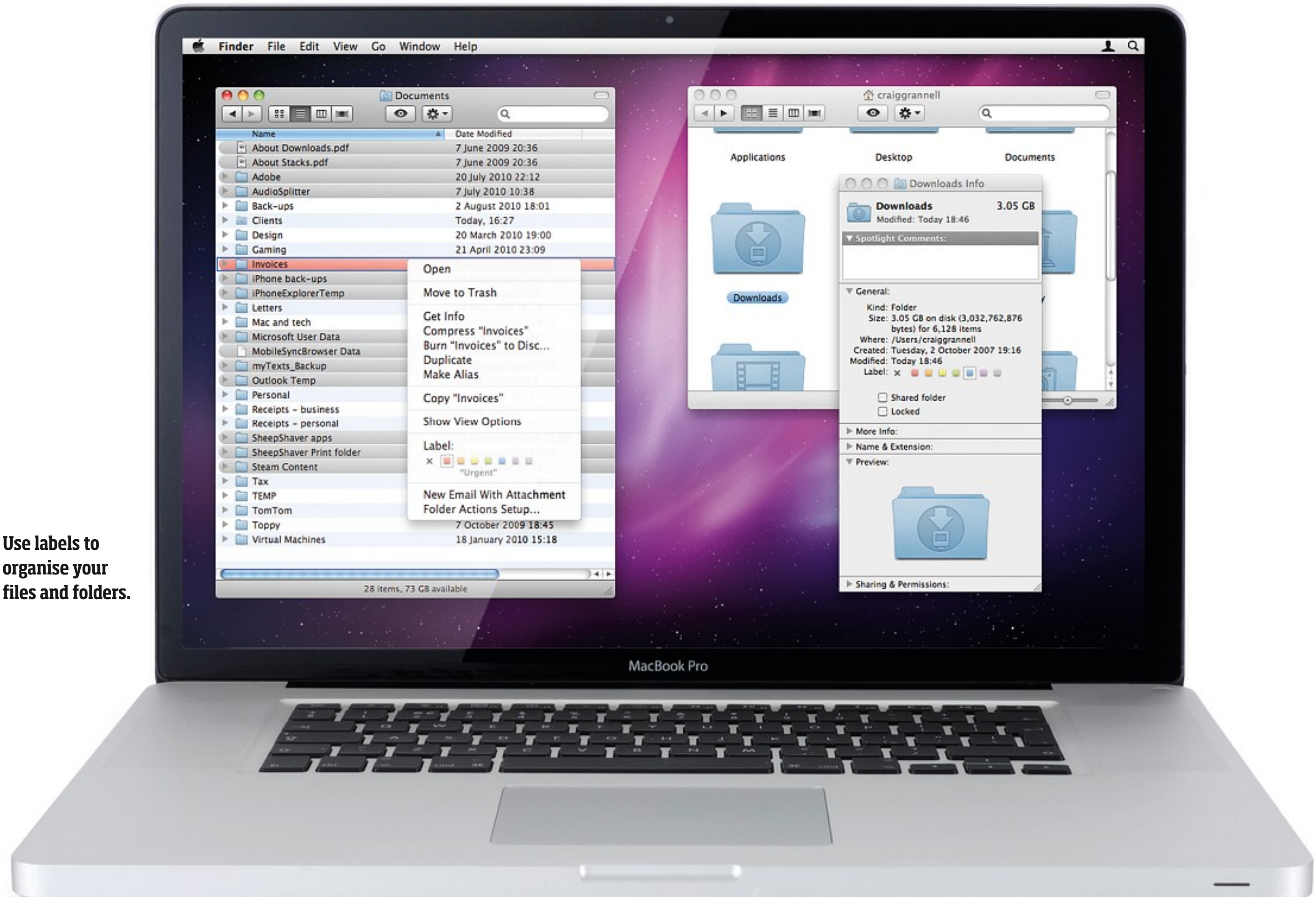
The first set of options are obvious, with the Mac offering to put the machine and display to sleep after a period of inactivity. Obviously, these settings still draw power so they're not ideal, but it's a start. Ticking the **Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible** option will also save on a bit of juice too, but I was after bigger savings than this.

So, geek that I am, I monitored when and where I was using the Macs and it turns out that the Mac in the kitchen only gets used after 4pm and never after 9pm. My Mac Pro is rarely used after 6pm and the Mac mini under the TV? Well, let's just say that it's used less than I imagined it would be when I bought it.

Cash converters

How could I turn all this knowledge into money then? By using the **Energy Saver**'s schedule, of course! In the **Energy Saver** *System Preferences* pane click on **Schedule**. You set startup and shutdown times to suit your needs, so that your Mac comes on and switches off automatically. Hardly complicated magically wizardry, but think about it in kilowatt hours saved and it gets more interesting. As for all the other stuff, I only charge devices when they need it and now unplug them.

I'm awaiting the next electricity bill with eager anticipation and a little less dread now. This is especially so as it will no longer be making a thud on my doormat, but more a gentle ping in my inbox. ●



Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Documents
Open
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "Invoices"
Burn "Invoices" to Disc...
Duplicate
Make Alias
Copy "Invoices"
Show View Options
Label:
"Urgent"
New Email With Attachment
Folder Actions Setup...
craiggrannell
Applications
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Downloads Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Preview:
Sharing & Permissions:
MacBook Pro

Name	Date Modified
About Downloads.pdf	7 June 2009 20:36
About Stacks.pdf	7 June 2009 20:36
Adobe	20 July 2010 22:12
AudioSplitter	7 July 2010 10:38
Back-ups	2 August 2010 18:01
Clients	Today, 16:27
Design	20 March 2010 19:00
Gaming	21 April 2010 23:09
Invoices	
iPhone back-ups	
iPhoneExplorerTemp	
Letters	
Mac and tech	
Microsoft User Data	
MobileSyncBrowser Data	
myTexts_Backup	
Outlook Temp	
Personal	
Receipts – business	
Receipts – personal	
SheepShaver apps	
SheepShaver Print folder	
Steam Content	
Tax	
TEMP	
TomTom	
Toppy	7 October 2009 18:45
Virtual Machines	18 January 2010 15:18

28 items, 73 GB available

Downloads 3.05 GB
Modified: Today 18:46

Kind: Folder
Size: 3.05 GB on disk (3,032,762,876 bytes) for 6,128 items
Where: /Users/craiggrannell
Created: Tuesday, 2 October 2007 19:16
Modified: Today 18:46
Label: ×

☐ Shared folder
☐ Locked

Use labels to organise your files and folders.

Categorise your documents

Use coloured labels to flag documents and group them in smart folders

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X (10.3+ for labels, 10.4+ for smart folders in Finder), some files and folders to assign labels to

There are many useful features buried in little-explored corners of Mac OS X; and yet these features, when mastered, can transform your user experience. One example is the Mac OS label.

Labels first arrived in 1991, as part of Mac OS 7. That version of Mac OS introduced a new coloured interface (earlier versions of Mac OS had been monochrome), and as part of this Apple enabled users to apply coloured labels to files and folders, thereby making them stand out. Although the feature was initially absent from Mac OS X, it eventually surfaced as part of Mac OS X 10.3 and it's stayed put ever since.

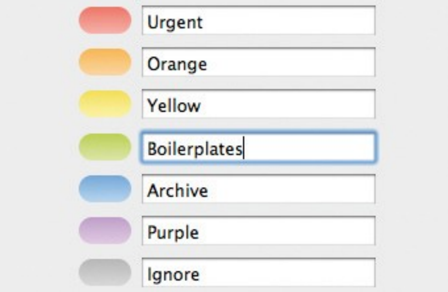
Some users were disappointed with Apple's OS X implementation of labels. Previously, label colours and names could be customised, and colourising an item's name was optional. Under OS X, only label names can be edited, and icons aren't coloured – instead, OS X applies the colour behind the item's name. The exception is when items are selected: in icon view, the label then becomes a 'halo' around the item name; in other views, it appears as a dot next to the selected item's file-name. (Note that if you're a long-time Mac user hankering for the 'good old days' when it comes to labels, Unsanity's *Labels X* – **http://unsanity.com/haxies/labels** – offers customisable label colours and icon tinting for $15.)

> *"Labels can enable the eye to gloss over certain files and folders and make others stand out..."*

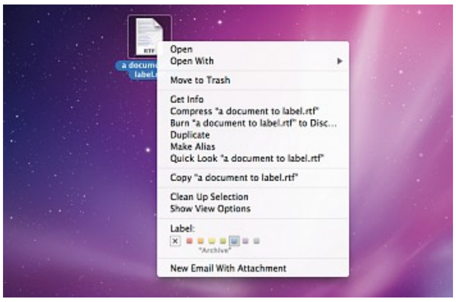
However, just because a feature has been stripped back, that doesn't mean it isn't useful; as we'll show in the walkthrough, OS X labels can be used to enable the eye to gloss over certain files and folders, make specific documents stand out in the *Finder*, and remind you to deal with something later; they're also great for creating dynamic folders of related documents, regardless of what they are and where they're stored.

Craig Grannell

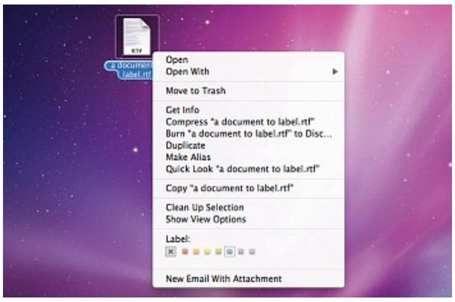
HOW TO / Get to grips with coloured labels



🟥	Urgent
🟧	Orange
🟨	Yellow
🟩	Boilerplates
🟦	Archive
🟪	Purple
⬜	Ignore



a document to label.rtf
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "a document to label.rtf"
Burn "a document to label.rtf" to Disc…
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "a document to label.rtf"
Copy "a document to label.rtf"
Clean Up Selection
Show View Options
Label:
"Archive"
New Email With Attachment



a document to label.rtf
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "a document to label.rtf"
Burn "a document to label.rtf" to Disc…
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "a document to label.rtf"
Copy "a document to label.rtf"
Clean Up Selection
Show View Options
Label:
New Email With Attachment

01 Edit label descriptions

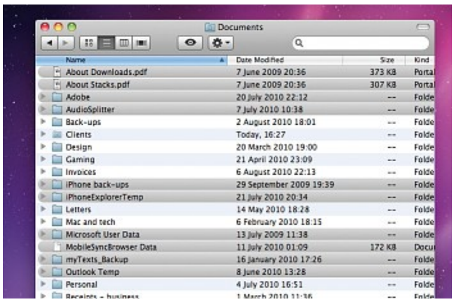
Although the colours used for labels cannot be edited, you can amend the text-based descriptions. In *Finder*, go to Finder > Preferences and select **Labels**. You'll see the colours for each label – select the description you want to change and type a new one.

02 Apply a label

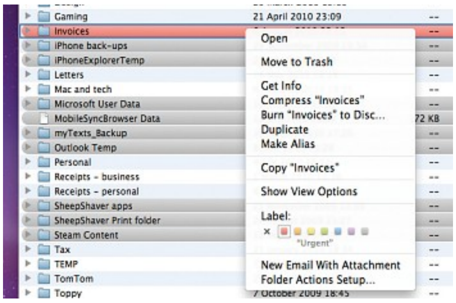
There are several ways to apply labels in *Finder*. Choose the items and then select the label from the file menu, the *Finder* window's actions menu, or from the contextual menu that you can access via a ctrl-click. When you hover over a colour, its description is shown.

03 Remove a label

To remove a label, follow any of the processes detailed in the previous step and then select the **X** option. The label should vanish, reverting your item back to its default state. (Note that this also works with multiple-item selections.)



Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
About Downloads.pdf	7 June 2009 20:36	373 KB	Portal
About Stacks.pdf	7 June 2009 20:36	307 KB	Portal
Adobe	20 July 2010 22:12	--	Folde
AudioSplitter	7 July 2010 10:38	--	Folde
Back-ups	2 August 2010 18:01	--	Folde
Clients	Today, 16:27	--	Folde
Design	20 March 2010 19:00	--	Folde
Gaming	21 April 2010 23:09	--	Folde
Invoices	6 August 2010 22:13	--	Folde
iPhone back-ups	29 September 2009 19:39	--	Folde
iPhoneExplorerTemp	21 July 2010 20:34	--	Folde
Letters	14 May 2010 18:28	--	Folde
Mac and tech	6 February 2010 18:15	--	Folde
Microsoft User Data	13 July 2009 11:38	--	Folde
MobileSyncBrowser Data	11 July 2010 01:09	172 KB	Docu
myTexts_Backup	16 January 2010 17:26	--	Folde
Outlook Temp	8 June 2010 13:28	--	Folde
Personal	4 July 2010 16:51	--	Folde



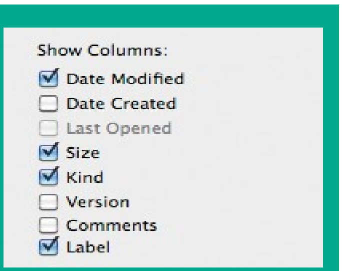
Gaming
Invoices
iPhone back-ups
iPhoneExplorerTemp
Letters
Mac and tech
Microsoft User Data
MobileSyncBrowser Data
myTexts_Backup
Outlook Temp
Personal
Receipts – business
Receipts – personal
SheepShaver apps
SheepShaver Print folder
Steam Content
Tax
TEMP
TomTom
Toppy
21 April 2010 23:09
Open
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "Invoices"
Burn "Invoices" to Disc…
Duplicate
Make Alias
Copy "Invoices"
Show View Options
Label:
"Urgent"
New Email With Attachment
Folder Actions Setup…

04 Deemphasise items

Some folders on your Mac may have items you don't use but don't want to delete – for example, **~/Documents** often includes stuff installed by applications that should really be in **/Library**. A good way of de-emphasising these items is by applying a grey label to them.

05 Flag urgent items

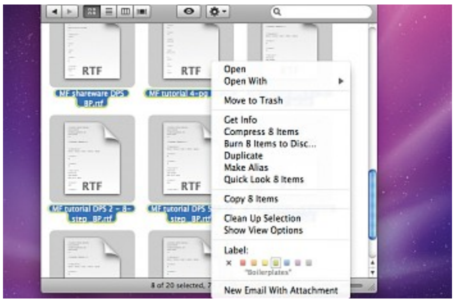
Typically, red is used to make things stand out, and so that's a good label to apply to anything you consider urgent – for example, things you've downloaded that you need to deal with as soon as possible, or files you want to back up or send on to a friend or colleague.



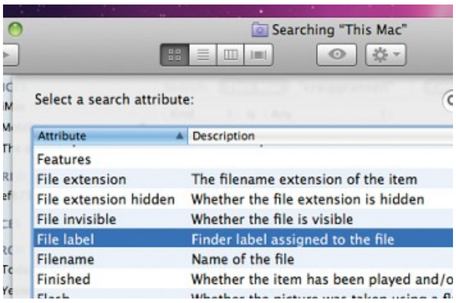
Show Columns:
☑ Date Modified
☐ Date Created
☐ Last Opened
☑ Size
☑ Kind
☐ Version
☐ Comments
☑ Label

QUICK TIP

If there are specific folders that you like to display primarily in List view, but you'd also like to display their label descriptions, go to View > Show View Options and check Label to show the label column in the list view.



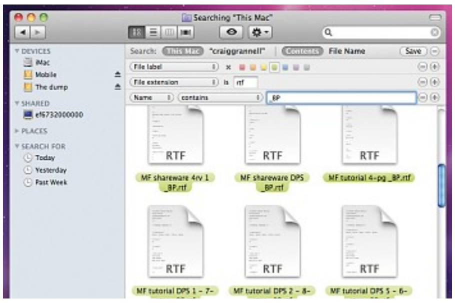
RTF
MF shareware DPS BP.rtf
MF tutorial 4-pg
MF tutorial DPS 2 – 8-step_BP.rtf
MF tutorial DPS step_BP.rtf
8 of 20 selected
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress 8 Items
Burn 8 Items to Disc…
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look 8 Items
Copy 8 Items
Clean Up Selection
Show View Options
Label:
"Boilerplates"
New Email With Attachment



Searching "This Mac"

Select a search attribute:

Attribute	Description
Features	
File extension	The filename extension of the item
File extension hidden	Whether the file extension is hidden
File invisible	Whether the file is visible
File label	Finder label assigned to the file
Filename	Name of the file
Finished	Whether the item has been played and/o



Searching "This Mac"
DEVICES
iMac
Mobile
The dump
SHARED
PLACES
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
Search: This Mac "craiggrannell" Contents File Name
Save
File label
File extension is rtf
Name contains BP
RTF
MF shareware 4rv 1_BP.rtf
MF shareware DPS_BP.rtf
MF tutorial 4-pg_BP.rtf
MF tutorial DPS 1 – 7-
MF tutorial DPS 2 – 8-
MF tutorial DPS 5 – 6-

06 Group similar items

Because labels are so easy to apply and remove, they perfect for grouping files and folders that are spread all over your hard drive. First, decide on a label and description, and label relevant files – in this example, we're labelling text templates as 'Boilerplates' using green.

07 Create a smart folder

Go to File > New Smart Folder. Click the + button to start defining smart-folder criteria. From the left-most menu (likely **Kind**), select **Other** and then **File label** from the search list. Click **OK**. Next, select one of the colours. The window will populate with your labelled items.

08 Refine and save

Add further criteria if you wish to hone the selection (such as **File extension is RTF** to list only rich-text files), and then click **Save**. Name your smart folder, check **Add To Sidebar** and labelled documents will be available in the future via a single click. ●

10 essential Dashboard widgets

Give your Dashboard a new lease of life with these must-have additions

>> KEY INFO

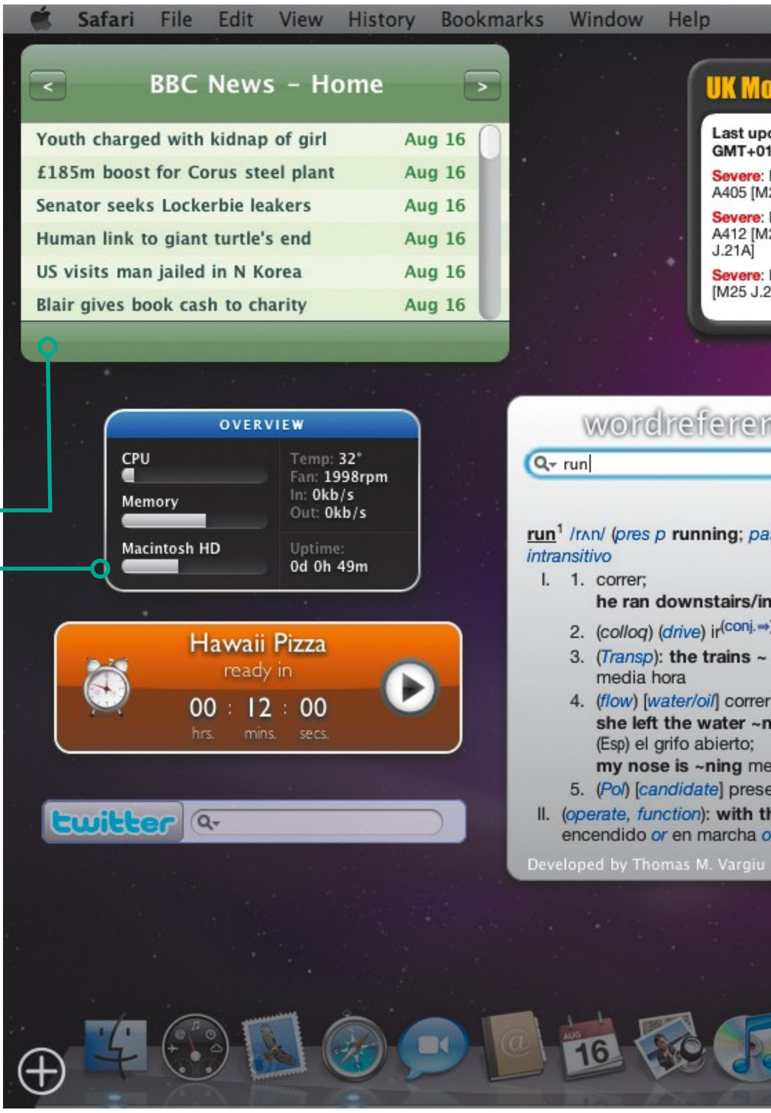
DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Internet connection, Mac OS X 10.4 or later

Dashboard – the screen of widgets that gives you all sorts of information – arrived in Mac OS X 10.4 amid much fanfare, but has become something of a forgotten feature. It remains incredibly useful though. You can view it by pressing F4 on new Mac keyboards, or by clicking its icon next to the *Finder* in the Dock. You get some widgets as standard, including a unit converter, *iCal* and a weather forecaster. But there are thousands more online. Here we'll cover 10 of the best. They come as WDGT files – just double-click them to install. Once a widget's loaded, flip it over by clicking **i** to view settings.

Laurence Cable


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
BBC News – Home
OVERVIEW
CPU
Memory
Macintosh HD
Temp: 32°
Fan: 1998rpm
In: 0kb/s
Out: 0kb/s
Uptime:
0d 0h 49m
Hawaii Pizza
ready in
00 : 12 : 00
hrs. mins. secs.
twitter
UK Mo
wordreferen
run
Developed by Thomas M. Vargiu

Youth charged with kidnap of girl Aug 16
£185m boost for Corus steel plant Aug 16
Senator seeks Lockerbie leakers Aug 16
Human link to giant turtle's end Aug 16
US visits man jailed in N Korea Aug 16
Blair gives book cash to charity Aug 16

RSS Reader

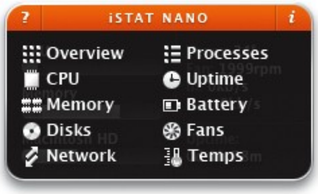
http://bit.ly/rssreader

Dashboard could never replace your regular newsfeed software, but if there are a few feeds you'd like to keep a closer eye on, this widget is great. Simply add the newsfeed address and it'll display the top headlines. Click one to read the story in your web browser. You can add multiple feeds too – navigate between them using the arrows at the top. Unfortunately, there's no Google Reader integration.

iStat nano

http://bit.ly/istatnano

Great for keeping on top of how your Mac is running. With information from fan speed to the temperature of your hard drive, it's all there at a glance. The main **Overview** gives you key details. Hover over it to select another category, each of which gives you even more in-depth stats of how things are ticking.


? ISTAT NANO i
Overview
Processes
CPU
Uptime
Memory
Battery
Disks
Fans
Network
Temps

UK Motorway News

http://bit.ly/ukmotorway

Do a lot of motorway driving? If so, this little widget gives you an at-a-glance view of the state of play on your commute, meaning you can plan an alternative route if things are looking congested. Flip it over and choose a particular motorway, or leave the box blank to see how things are moving across the entire UK motorway network. Click one of the incidents to be taken to the BBC travel page to find out more.

Tea Timer

http://bit.ly/teatimerwidget

Ever left your pizza cooking in the oven, come back to your Mac and forgotten about dinner burning away? This widget gives you a food timer. Flip it over to enable alarms, set a sound and voice and tick **Keep Alarming**. Then go back, click where it says **Tea** and type in what you're timing. Enter the duration below, then press **Play**.

Twitter Search

http://bit.ly/twittersearchwidget

Love Twitter and want to know what people are saying about a certain topic or user? If you want to run a quick search on Twitter, there's no faster way than to pop the word or words you're looking for into this unassuming little widget and it'll pop up the results for you in your web browser. You can search for keywords, hashtags and usernames by using the respective # and @ symbols.

WordReference.com

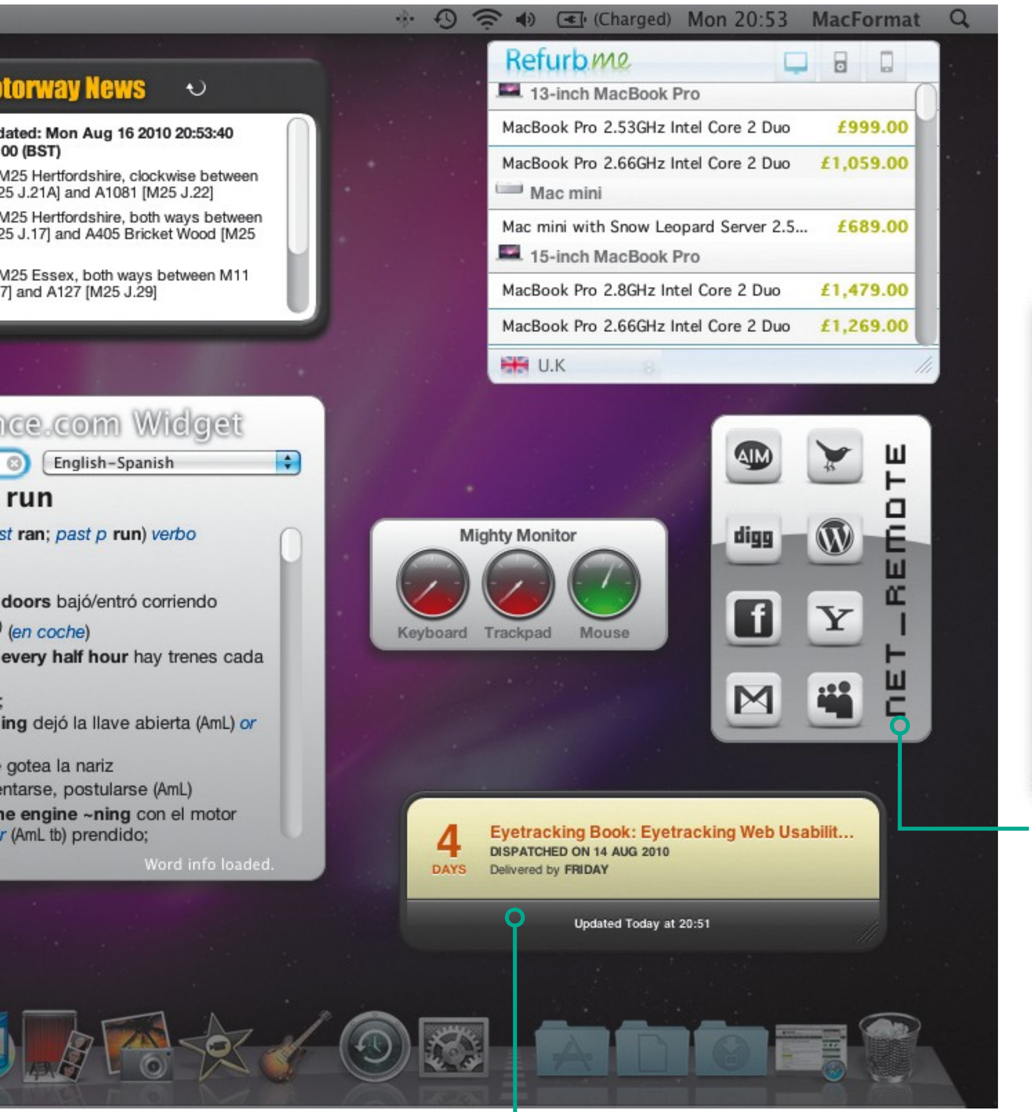
http://bit.ly/wordreferencewidget

While *Dashboard* comes with a translation widget, this one goes far beyond what the former does. Tapping into the extensive WordReference.com website, it can translate from English to 15 languages, and even between some of those tongues. It gives you all the possible translations, showing words in context as well as compound forms.

RefurbMe

http://bit.ly/refurbme

Refurbished Macs are a great way to nab yourself a Mac that's as good as new, but at a knocked-down price. But there isn't an endless supply of refurbs. This widget enables you to keep an eye on what's on offer, so that when something tasty comes up, you can pounce. Decide whether you're after a Mac, iPod or iPhone at the top, and choose your country's Apple Store from the drop-down at the bottom.



dated: Mon Aug 16 2010 20:53:40
00 (BST)
M25 Hertfordshire, clockwise between
25 J.21A] and A1081 [M25 J.22]
M25 Hertfordshire, both ways between
25 J.17] and A405 Bricket Wood [M25
M25 Essex, both ways between M11
7] and A127 [M25 J.29]

13-inch MacBook Pro
MacBook Pro 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo £999.00
MacBook Pro 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo £1,059.00
Mac mini
Mac mini with Snow Leopard Server 2.5... £689.00
15-inch MacBook Pro
MacBook Pro 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo £1,479.00
MacBook Pro 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo £1,269.00
U.K

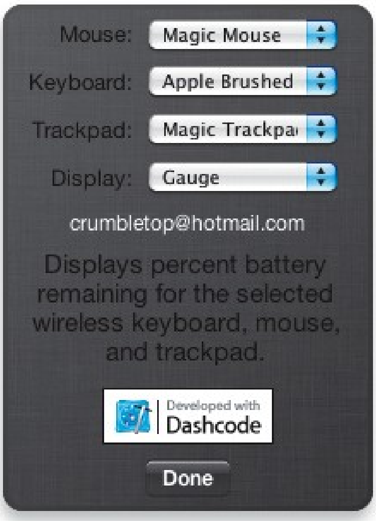
run
st ran; past p run) verbo
doors bajó/entró corriendo
(en coche)
every half hour hay trenes cada
ing dejó la llave abierta (AmL) or
gotea la nariz
entarse, postularse (AmL)
ne engine ~ning con el motor
r (AmL tb) prendido;

4 DAYS Eyetracking Book: Eyetracking Web Usabilit...
DISPATCHED ON 14 AUG 2010
Delivered by FRIDAY
Updated Today at 20:51

MightyMonitor

http://bit.ly/mightymonitor

There's nothing more frustrating than when the batteries in your wireless keyboard, mouse or trackpad run out while you are working, or as you're about to finish that level you've been trying to complete for hours. This widget gives you battery readings for your input devices, so you'll know when power's running low.



Mouse: Magic Mouse
Keyboard: Apple Brushed
Trackpad: Magic Trackpa
Display: Gauge
crumbletop@hotmail.com
Displays percent battery remaining for the selected wireless keyboard, mouse, and trackpad.

Net_Remote Social

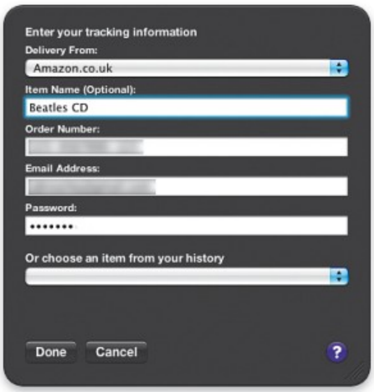
http://bit.ly/netremote

This one's simplicity itself, but we love it. The chunky buttons give you instant access to Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Digg, Gmail, WordPress, Yahoo and AIM websites. Just click the one you want to fire up in your browser – so your blog and favourite social networking sites are literally just a click away.

Delivery Status

http://bit.ly/deliverystatuswidget

If you order lots of gear over the internet, you'll know exactly how frustrating it can be having to check the delivery status of each item across multiple websites. Now you no longer have to do this – simply add the details of your order or a tracking number to the widget and it will keep you updated on progress and provide a delivery estimate. It covers your orders from Amazon, Apple, Google Checkout and more, plus packages sent by Royal Mail, Parcelforce, Citylink, TNT and many others.



Enter your tracking information
Delivery From: Amazon.co.uk
Item Name (Optional): Beatles CD
Order Number: [redacted]
Email Address: [redacted]
Password: •••••••
Or choose an item from your history

HOW TO / Close/delete

On your *Dashboard*, click the plus sign in the bottom-left corner to manage your widgets and they will appear in the dock at the bottom – scroll left and right to see them all. Drag a widget onto your *Dashboard* to add it. Close any widgets you don't use – hold ⌥ and hover your mouse over one to pop up the close cross. Or, click **Manage Widgets...** *Dashboard's* dock to delete permanently.

MacFormat's Editor Graham enjoying a day out at the new Apple Store in Covent Garden.

Words: **Graham Barlow.** Photography: **Kevin Nixon and courtesy of Apple**

Around the world in 300 Apple Stores

The new Covent Garden Apple Store is the company's 300th store, and its best yet. Here we take a tour of the building and revisit the history of the Apple Store concept

The first Apple Store opened in 2001. In fact, two of them were opened on the same day in two different locations: Tysons Corner in Virginia and Glendale in California. These first two stores were small, especially compared to today's flagship stores in key locations like Manhattan, Sydney, Tokyo and Regent Street, but they contained the seed of an idea that would later find fruition in 300 stores worldwide, culminating in Apple's latest and greatest: London's new Covent Garden store. In fact, this feature is already out of date. Apple Stores are springing up so quickly that store number 301 was opened in Castle Towers Shopping Centre in the northwest suburbs of Sydney as we were writing. And by the time this magazine is on sale there will probably be more!

> *"Celebrities like Stephen Fry, Katherine Jenkins and Ricky Gervais have all participated in live Apple Store events"*

The Apple Store was the brainchild of Ron Johnson, Apple's Vice President of Retail. Right from the start, he had a very focused vision of what an Apple retail experience should be: open, airy surroundings, the Genius Bar, the mix of glass windows and wooden desks and the attitude to sales that let the products do the talking.

Johnson joined Apple in 2000 after previously working as Vice President of Merchandising for Target Stores. In typical Apple style, his initial work on a retail store for Apple was kept top secret, in case it tipped off competitors. Even his name was kept quiet within the company and it wasn't until the official announcement of the first Apple Store in Virginia that the majority of people within Apple found out his real name.

Initial press reaction to the concept of an Apple Store was negative. "I don't think we convinced one person at the time," he said during his acceptance speech on behalf of Apple for the Award of Excellence from the Success for Design Conference in 2004 – and yet Apple proved everybody wrong, again. Whatever magic formula makes up Apple's retail experience, it works. Very quickly the number of Apple Stores in the US ballooned until, nine years later, it reached the staggering 229 stores we have today. Of course, Apple didn't simply stop at the borders to its

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APPLE STORES

[01] No flagship Apple Store is complete without a glass staircase.

[02] Looking down from the balcony.

[03] Business customers now have their own briefing room, another first for Covent Garden.

[04] It's not just a wall. These bricks date all the way back to the 1800s.

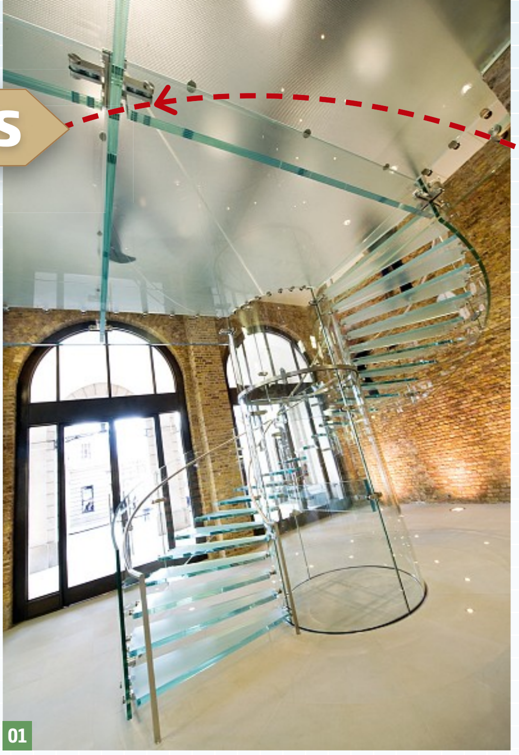
[05] Underneath the arches.

[06] The third floor is home to the latest Mac apps.

[07] No need for a massive logo outside. Apple is happy with understatement.

[08] Ron Johnson, Vice President of Apple Retail and "Mr Apple Store".

[09] The glass-roofed courtyard lets natural light fall onto Apple products.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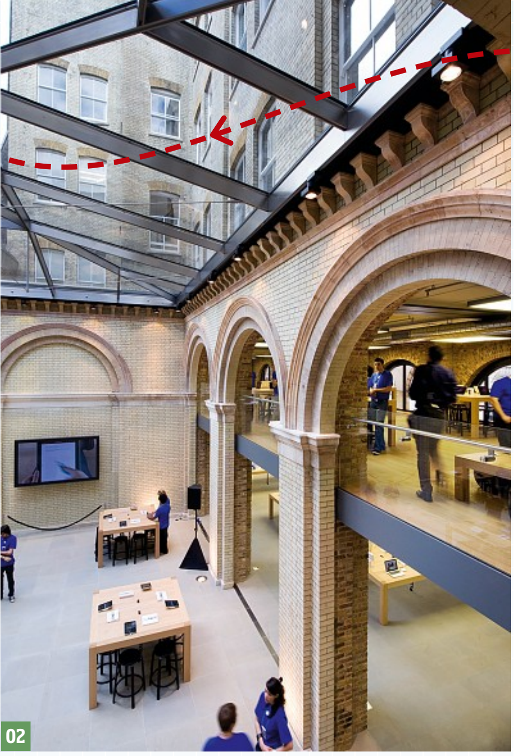
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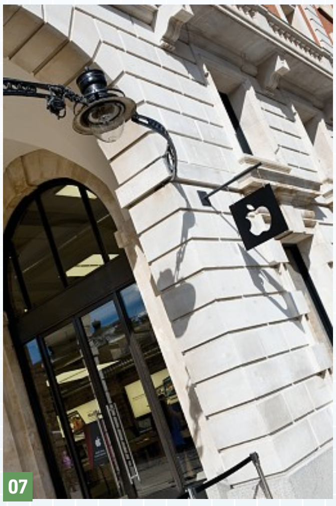
BRIEFING ROOM
Welcome
04

03

06


07

home nation – Apple Stores can now be found in 10 countries worldwide, and Apple is spreading into more all the time.

Perhaps the key to its success is that an Apple Store is a place where you can not only learn about Apple products, but you can actually try them out, and get help if you're having problems. The Apple kit is presented beautifully on desks throughout the store for you to play with to your heart's content, without getting disapproving looks from the staff. Sure, you'll likely to be approached by a sales assistant wearing an Apple T-shirt fairly quickly when you enter the store, but they're normally just happy to chat about the products, rather than give you the hard sell. And, as we saw in last month's feature on One to One training, the Apple Store is more than just a shop – you can also get trained in all the latest Apple applications, check into the Genius Bar to get help with any problems you have, or be entertained by celebrities and musicians at a live event.

> *"Whatever country you're in, you always know when you're in an Apple Store. It's unmistakably Apple"*

Oh, and we all know Apple Stores have free public Wi-Fi too, so it's a great place to check your email.

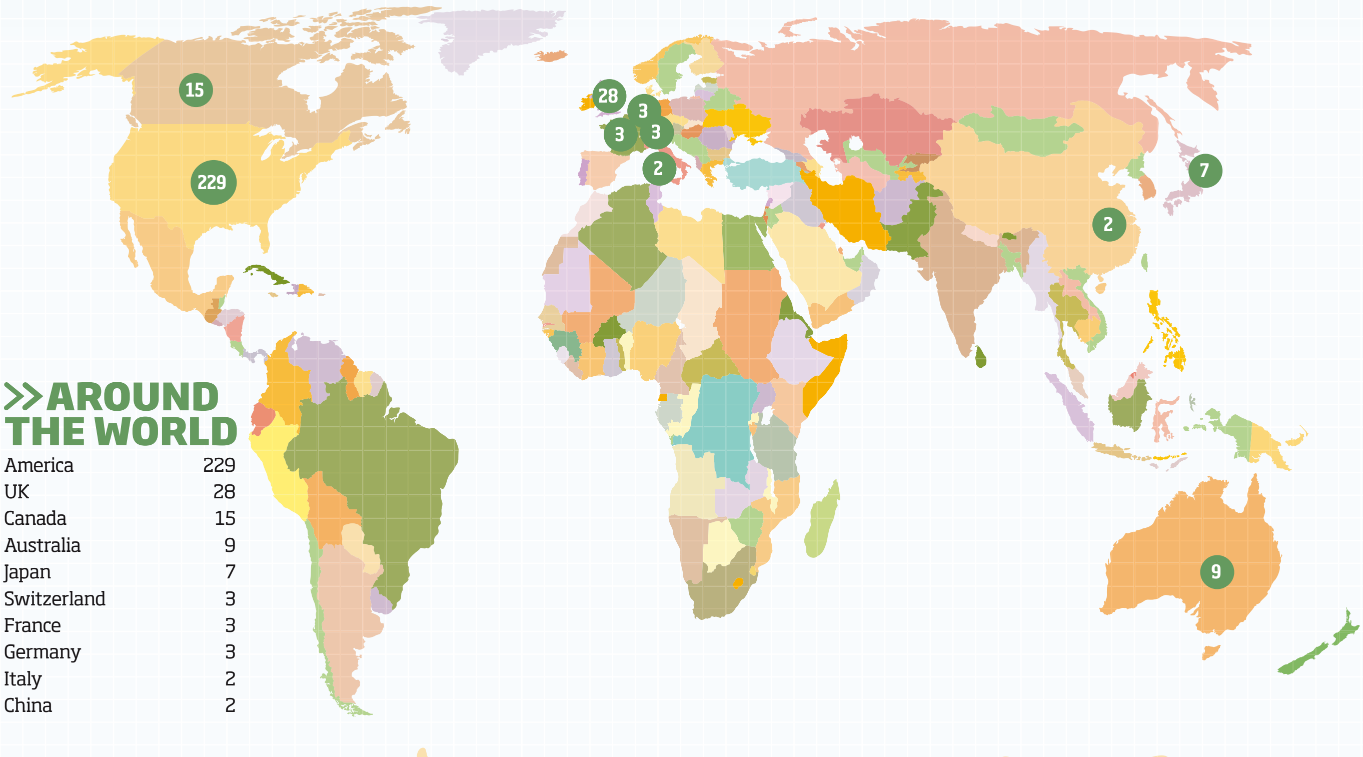
Underneath the arches

Whatever country you're in though, you always know you're in an Apple Store – it's just so unmistakably Apple. But long-term Apple watchers are starting to notice a few differences to the usual Store layout of late. All the familiar elements – glass staircase, wooden desks – are there, but things are starting to change in Apple land. The new Covent Garden Store is a prime example. It's actually one of four stores that Apple has opened around the same time, including two stores in Paris (Louvre and Opéra) and one in Shanghai, China, that are starting to break the mould. These new stores still have that unmistakable Apple feel, but rather than making each store an identikit clone of the last one, Apple is now adding a bit of local flavour to proceedings. For example, both the Opéra and Covent Garden stores have retained as much of their building's original architecture as possible, seeing them restored back to their original 19th-century splendour.

"Over the last 10 years we've learned a lot," said Johnson, speaking at the opening of the Covent Garden Store in August. "It turns out that our most significant stores, what people would call 'flagship stores', are our best stores. They're our highest profit and highest traffic stores as well, so we love building these significant stores."

You might be surprised to learn that the Regent Street store is Apple's busiest store in the world, with even more visitors than the more visually impressive store on 5th Avenue. It seems that big stores work, and so does making those stores more distinctive and unique, which is good news for everyone.

» APPLE WORLDWIDE / Where to find the 300+ Stores



» AROUND THE WORLD

America	229
UK	28
Canada	15
Australia	9
Japan	7
Switzerland	3
France	3
Germany	3
Italy	2
China	2

Going forward, it looks like Apple's focus will be on bigger stores, and making each one special. Covent Garden is one of the premier tourist destinations in the West End, making it the perfect spot for a new Apple Store. Covent Garden started life as a fruit-and-veg market, around 1654, but by the 18th century it had become a well-known red-light area. An act of parliament was drawn up to control the area, and Charles Fowler's neoclassical building was erected in 1830 to cover the market area (the fortuitously named 'Apple Market' is still there today, but now mainly sells tourist gifts and crafts).

The new store takes over from Regent Street as the largest Apple Store in the world. Occupying a Grade II listed building on the Piazza, it's a visual delight for anyone – not just Apple fans – in combining architectural work from the 1870s with Apple's hyper-modern approach to design, including the famous glass staircase. In fact, this store has two of them – a spiral staircase at the front and one at the rear enabling access to two more floors.

> *"Another first for the Covent Garden Store is the creation of individual rooms for Mac, iPhone, iPad and iPod"*

Underneath the arches

The most notable architectural feature of the store has to be the arches that run around the outside. Inside the Covent Garden store you'll find more arches – they're all over the place and they help to form the creation of individual rooms for each product line – Mac, iPhone, iPad and iPod. Every original building material amenable to restoration has been given the full treatment, giving the whole space a wonderfully olde worlde feel as you wander beneath beautiful brick arches and between traditional English oak desks.

As you walk through the store's door you enter the world of Mac; and beyond that is an impressive iPad courtyard where natural daylight streams in through a huge glass ceiling. It's at this point that the sheer size of the building really hits you. Apple tells us you could quite easily fit the entire Manhattan Apple Store inside this courtyard area! Tucked away in the back is the iPod room and up a floor is a new feature – a Setup room, to which you can retire after making your new Apple purchase. Here you can set up your email on your new MacBook, activate your new iPhone or choose your favourite iPad wallpaper, all with a degree of privacy, away from other shoppers.

Also on the second floor you'll find the Community room packed with One to One training desks, and a new Pro Labs area for training in the more professional Apple applications, such as *Final Cut*. Around the corner you'll find a huge Genius Bar. Here it's shielded off in its own room, so you don't get distracted by the noise of other shoppers. But we're not done yet – there's an entire floor still to cover. On the third

»

08

09

Pudong, Shanghai. The new Apple Store fits seamlessly into the skyline.

Art for art's sake? The Louvre Apple Store.

level is the biggest range of accessories of any Apple Store. Cases, speaker docks, laptop bags – it's all here.

"It's in many ways the best thing we've done so far, because it's got all of our thinking in it, from the 299 steps that precede it," said Ron Johnson at its launch. He's right too. The Covent Garden Apple Store is a beautifully restored building in a great location. Add it to your favourite tourist destinations, because it's well worth a trip to the capital to see all by itself. And you've also got the delights of Covent Garden and its lively atmosphere to entertain you as well.

But what features should you look out for on your visit to the Covent Garden Apple Store? Well, for a start the brickwork. The rough, multi-hewed, ceramic walls are the most obvious component of the store. They're fused with a cool ambience by carefully placed lights illuminating from below. The best view of them is perhaps from the top of the second glass staircase at the back of the store – looking down you can see all the levels' modern glass and ancient brickwork contrasting beautifully. Prominent air conditioning ducts don't look out of place. Unusually for an Apple Store, they have been kept in plain view, along with the infrastructure's sprinkler piping.

Créme de la créme

And so, to Paris. Here Apple has been busy, opening two stores separated by just a few months. This first store, opened in 2009, is situated in the Louvre, one of the most respected cultural institutions in the world. This was Apple's first ever store in France.

"We build a lot of stores, but we do a few that are really special, and the significant stores tend to have a landmark location and really unique architecture. And you put that together and it kind of becomes magical," said Johnson, speaking at its launch.

As you can see from the picture on the left, it's a beautifully designed location, fully deserving of its premier position inside the Louvre's underground shopping mall. If you looked over your shoulder from where this picture was taken you'd see the famous Pyramide Inversée right behind you. And looking through the glass inside the store, you would begin to notice that the entire ceiling of the store features

>> WORK FOR APPLE / How do I get a job at an Apple Store?

"A job at an Apple Retail Store is a chance to use your hands and heart," says Apple. "To use your knowledge and experience. To contribute meaningfully to people's lives with your technical know-how. To delight. Enrich. Impress. Engage. Inspire."

Back in 2008 there were 15,000 retail employees at Apple. That figure will have grown considerably since then. In the original Apple Stores in 2001 there were just four positions: Store Manager, Assistant Manager, Mac Genius and Mac Specialist. These days there are almost as many job titles as people in any given store. There's a Store Leader, Manager, Genius, Business Manager, Solutions Engineer, Concierge, Family Room Specialist – the list goes on and on.

If you've got your heart set on working in an Apple Store then visit **www.apple.com/jobs/uk** (just change the last part of the URL depending on your country) and search for a job. According to Apple, an accurate CV is the key, and you don't necessarily have to be an Apple expert. "The best way to understand our company and our customers is to use our products," says the Apple website. "And if you have a passion for what we do and why we do it, even better."

Opéra, Paris. Forget trendy wine bars, these days your bank is now an Apple Store!

diamond-shaped metal panels that reflect the design of the famous Pyramid. It really is a sight to behold.

The Grand Ole Opéra

Apple's other Paris store of note is in the Opéra district, noted for its 'Grands Boulevards' (large avenues) built by Baron Haussmann under Napoleon III, to give the capital city more prestige. As its name implies, at the heart of the Opéra district you'll find the world-famous Opera Garnier, built in 1860 – one of the world's most renowned opera houses. The Apple Store here (at 12 rue Halévy) is on three floors. The building is an old bank (the Bank of Italy) and Apple's architects have done an amazing job of preserving the old building right down to the door of the safe. The mosaics on the floor and on the wall at the entrance to the room where the safe was located (the basement), which is now the accessories room, have also all been preserved.

This store is perhaps Apple's best restoration job – there are so many little details to wonder at, such as the brass grates at the centre of the mosaics in the floor on the downstairs level, the huge marble columns, massive windows, the candle-style chandelier lighting, the brass handrails on the stairs. The list just goes on and on – you really could spend a good hour just exploring the architecture. The mezzanine level, home to the Genius Bar, feels more like a balcony where you look down upon a performance below, and in the basement there are little twists and turns that you wouldn't expect in a normal retail store. And as with the Covent Garden store, there's also a skylight, to allow natural light to show off Apple's products in their full glory.

> "The list just goes on and on – you really could spend an hour simply exploring the architecture here"

Enter the dragon

The final new Apple Store that's definitely worthy of a mention is the Pudong store in Shanghai, which also opened in July. Like the 5th Avenue store in Manhattan, this is an underground structure with only glass visible above ground. But instead of the famous cube, a 30-foot high cylindrical glass entrance marks the spot. Incidentally, this is the largest single piece of glass ever constructed. The perimeter of the glass tower is almost completely surrounded by a shallow water fountain, leaving only a gap for entry down into the store via a spiral glass staircase. The store sits beneath a circular plaza at the International Finance Centre, at the base of two glass skyscrapers nearly 1,000 feet tall in the Lujiazui financial district of the city. One skyscraper contains office space and the other a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Both were designed by the famous Argentine architect César Pelli.

In the photo at the top of the opposite page, you can see how the Pudong Store blends into the Shanghai skyline at night. The dramatic building in the background that you can see is the Oriental Pearl TV Tower. But what's next for Apple Stores? Well, 2010 should see the first Apple Store opening in Spain, and we'd expect more countries after that, so hold onto your hats – Apple shows no sign of slowing down. ●

>>OUR TOP 10 STORES

#1 Covent Garden
Apple's biggest store yet

#2 Manhattan
The famous glass cube

#3 Regent Street
The most profitable store

#4 Opéra, Paris
Beautifully restored bank

#5 Louvre, Paris
The most arty store

#6 Pudong
Apple's Shanghai surprise

#7 Sydney
The largest ever Apple logo

#8 Scottsdale
Arizona's aquarium store

#9 Tokyo
Tallest. Four stores of fun

#10 Barcelona
New store coming soon...

Q&A

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** for an answer in the magazine.

"How can I get my MacBook repaired once and for all?"

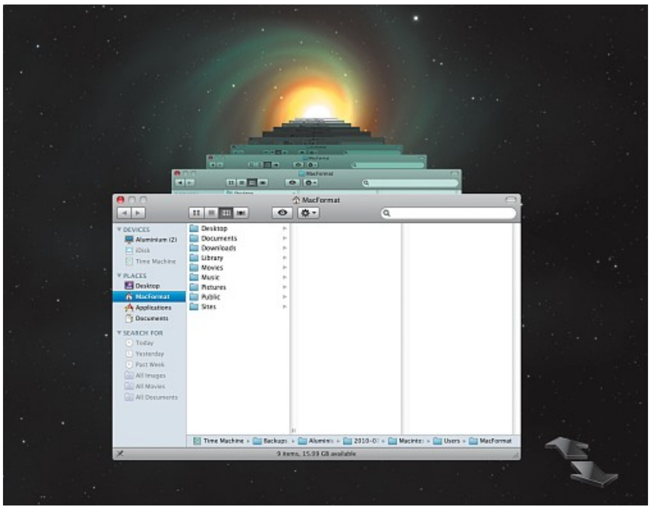
Q **I recently had several problems with a MacBook repair at Apple. First, I had to email sjobs@apple.com to get a repair, as two Apple stores refused to do it. The problems were a creaky display hinge, unresponsive trackpad and a slow hard drive. I got it back a couple of weeks later, to find they had replaced the top case, hard drive and display, but the display still had a broken hinge. So I sent it back. This time the display came back with a slight dent on the outside, and a dead pixel slap bang in the middle of the screen. At this point, I contacted Trading Standards to get Apple to budge, as they refused to repair it again – but they said it's my responsibility to get an Apple Store to look at it. When I finally got it home, I discovered a very slightly creaking hinge. Now I can just about live with it, but when you've had three months of repairs and find another problem, it gets annoying. Apple said they won't be replacing the display again and if it gets any worse, to contact them.**
Joel Kelly

MacBook hinges shouldn't squeak, but the problem need not be serious.

A I've had to trim your letter down a lot, because it was pretty epic, but I think you've been extremely patient. My policy is normally to accept one repair to a computer and, after that, I will start pushing hard for a refund or at least a complete replacement system. Just because you have had a series of problems with the same screen should not mean you have used up your 'credit'. If the squeaky hinge would qualify for a warranty repair on a laptop without any prior history, it should still qualify now. Whether it does or not probably depends a lot on what "very slightly creaking" means.

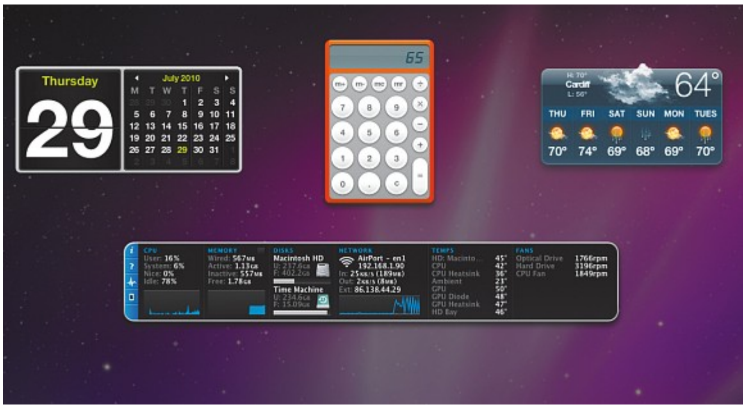
After Googling the symptoms I found the problem isn't unique, but it's certainly not common either. For a minor issue like this, I'd be inclined to try repairing it myself. Removing the bottom of the case allows you to slightly realign the plastic hinge in the top half and cure the creaking. Alternatively, perhaps a quick squirt of silicone 'dry lube'? This is sold in hardware stores and DIY shops.

If you have a Time Machine backup, you can reinstall OS X and then recover you data easily.



"I get an error when I connect to the internet"

Q **I am unable to connect to the internet via any program with my MacBook Pro. I changed from *Intego Internet Security* software to *Norton Internet Security for Mac*, and the problem seems to have occurred then. I deleted the Intego software then installed the Norton software and now, when I open up *Safari*, I receive the**



With iStat Menus find out what the normal range for numbers is before you start panicking.

following message: 'The operation couldn't be completed. Operation not permitted. (NSPOSIXError Domain:1)'

I cannot retrieve email through *Mail*, *MSN messenger* cannot connect, neither can *iTunes*. There is no problem with my internet connection as I can connect with my iPad and my Dell Windows 7 laptop. I am using Mac OSX 10.6. I have also uninstalled *Norton*, but this does not cure the problem.
John Skinner

A NSPOSIXErrorDomain messages are generated by the underlying BSD Unix, on which OS X is built. Normally you'll never see them because the application or OS will trap them and display something more helpful. When you see something as cryptic as this, it's a sign that you have encountered a situation the developer never anticipated. In your case, code 1 means 'Not super-user', so your applications are trying to do something that requires root access. This is probably a file or folder permission problem. Repairing permissions on your hard disk with *Disk Utilities* is the obvious first thing to try but, if the experience of the few similar cases on the forums is anything to go by, this probably isn't going to help. Since the problem affects all applications that need to access the internet, it must be a component within OS X. So my favoured option would be to reinstall Snow Leopard. The most bulletproof way to do this would be to back up everything with *Time Machine*, do an Erase and Install and then restore your applications and documents from *Time Machine*.

"How hot is too hot for my MacBook Pro?"

Q I have been using my aluminium MacBook Pro, running Leopard 10.5, for about two years, and recently I got *iStat Menus* (the one not compatible with Snow Leopard). Then I found out that my CPU runs at about 40-50 degrees, even just checking my email, and the GPU is running at nearly the same temperature. The fans run at about 3500rpm. But, now my spellcheck plays up and underlines most words in red.

This never happened until I downloaded the *iStat Menus*. Is there some kind of virus inside my computer, or did the computer just play up for no particular reason?
Anson Cheung

A 40 to 50 degrees is towards the low end of the normal range for a MacBook Pro. My desktops sit at around 39 or 40, on a warm day, when I'm just writing or surfing the net. This rises to around 50 when I'm playing *World of Warcraft*. Laptops are harder to keep cool because everything is more cramped. The normal equilibrium temperature for a MacBook is actually 60 to 70 degrees.

As for the spellcheck, have you opened the Language and Text preferences pane? It's not a virus either. Partly because there are virtually no Mac viruses and that's not how viruses work anyway. If changing the preference back doesn't work, trash /Library/Preferences/.GlobalPreferences.plist, but remember to back up first.

Terminal troubleshoot

Bill Gallop

Mac OS X is a very powerful, and flexible, operating system but much of that power is hidden from the average user by the interface itself. There is good reason for this as it is easy to break things if you don't know what you are doing. Apple, sensibly, only presents you with comprehensive options in preference panes and within the apps themselves, which cover the needs of the majority of users.

However, deep in the plumbing of Mac OS X lies a myriad of configuration files, programs, daemons, processes, services and service accounts, which allow you to monitor your Mac's performance and help make useful changes. (Remember to back up anything you change.)

The main interface to the Mac OS's underpinnings is the *Terminal*, which is located at **/Applications/Utilities/Terminal** – when you launch it you are taken into what is known as a shell. There are several different shells available on Mac OS X and which one you use will depend on personal preference and also what version of Mac OS X you are using, or which one you have upgraded from.

These days the standard shell is called 'bash', or the Bourne Again Shell, which has been the default since Mac OS X 10.3. Prior to this Mac OS X defaulted to the 'tcsh' and if you have upgraded your Mac from something earlier than Mac OS X 10.3 and are still using the same user account then you may still have tsch set as your default.

> *"There are different shells available on Mac OS X and which one you use will depend on personal preference"*

Terminal window should tell you which shell you are running; it will say 'Terminal – shell – 80x24' (80x24 being the default of 80 columns wide by 24 lines deep).

In order to change the default shell in Mac OS X 10.5 or later, go to the **Accounts** preference pane, unlock the pane, ⌘-click on the account you want to change and select **Advanced Options**. A pop-up menu will appear where you can choose the login shell for the user. Prior to Mac OS X 10.4 you will need to open **/Applications/Utilities/NetInfo Manager**, select users, then the name of the account that you want to change and in the bottom of the window will be a field called 'shell' that you can change from '/bin/tcsh' to '/bin/bash'. Most tips and tricks tend to assume you are using bash.

A good resource for things to change can be found on Mac OS X Tips (**http://bit.ly/ct7B2L**).

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

» QUICK TIP

You can turn off both the toolbar and the sidebar in *Finder* by clicking the grey lozenge button in the top right of the *Finder* window. Any new windows that open from sub-folders of that one will be bar-less as well.

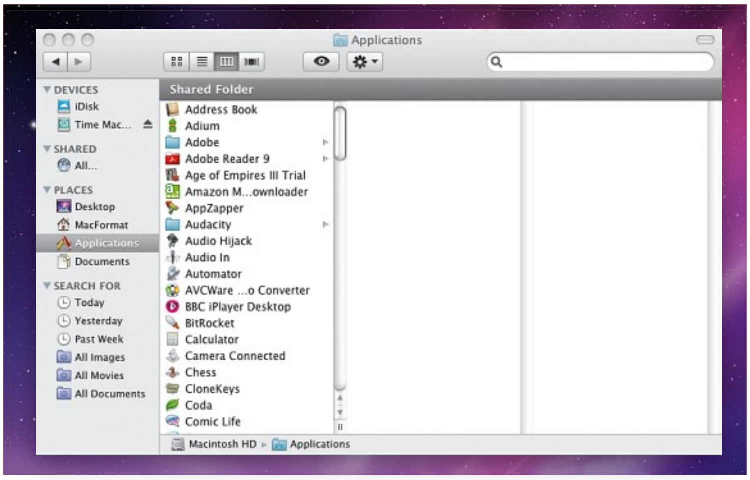
"Which OS am I really running on my iMac?"

Q **My old iMac running Tiger is developing monitor problems so I bought a new Mac mini and a FireWire to link them and transfer all my stuff to the new machine. The administrator on the iMac is my first name and on the mini it's my full name. The transferred stuff can mostly be run if I log in under first name but not under full name. Now one account still has the appearance of being run under Tiger; is this really the case that the OS has come over as well?**

Second, if I take a program from my first-name account to the other by copying it from my external drive it does not always work, because it cannot access all the files it needs or it says I haven't permission to access data. Can you help? I would prefer to be able to run all my programs under Snow Leopard but do not want to lose data and passwords.

Clive

A Have you actually transferred the data from your Tiger Mac using *Migration Assistant* or are you just mounting the disk in Target Disk Mode with the FireWire cable? Obviously the I-wouldn't-start-from-here option would be to create the admin account on the new machine with the same name as the old. Actually, that could still be the start-from-here option too because there's nothing to stop you creating a new admin account to match the old one and then transferring everything across again. But it's probably unnecessary. I'm fairly sure that if you just copy the Applications folder across and then right-click and choose Get Info, you'll be able to change the permissions to Read & Write for system and admin and Read only for everyone. Make sure those changes are applied to all enclosing folders, as well, and then everything will work perfectly. Bear in mind that you might need to update some applications as well, if there are compatibility issues with Snow Leopard and that particular app.



With an administrator login, change the permissions for folders using the Get Info panel.

"Should I buy a refurbished Apple machine?"

Q **I don't as yet own a Mac, however I am very interested in them. How often do they bring out new Apple MacBooks, as I understand new iPods come out every September? If I were to purchase one, I was considering buying a refurbished one through the Apple Store UK website. Perhaps if I did so just before they released a new one, I might get a new 'old version' that is about to be discontinued, as I have heard they go through rigorous testing and come with a new Apple warranty. What do you think?**

Simon Jethwa

» MACFIXIT TIPS / iDisk unavailable when attempting to mount in the Finder

When trying to access the MobileMe iDisk in the *Finder*, you may run into a problem in which the disk will not mount and will give an error stating "Your iDisk is unavailable." This problem may crop up after applying software updates or reinstalling the system, but it may also happen after syncing with new mobile devices or computers, or even seem to happen randomly. If this occurs, try the following:

Reboot

Sometimes a basic restart of the system will be enough to fix the problem. Usually just logging out and logging back in would work, but restarting can be another way to ensure system processes and services are refreshed.

Log out of MobileMe

Go to the MobileMe *System Preferences* and log out. Log back in and try accessing iDisk again.

Use a full email address

The MobileMe username should work when accessing the MobileMe service; however, some people have had success by changing their username to be the full 'username@me.com' email address.

Remove Keychain entries for MobileMe and iDisk

Go to the *Keychain Access* utility and use it to locate and remove keychain entries associated with MobileMe or iDisk. After this is done, go to the MobileMe system preferences and log back into MobileMe and try your iDisk again.

Change your password

Go to the MobileMe website and change your password for the service. Then try logging in with the new password, and you can then optionally change the password back to the old one.

Keep in mind this problem may be due to several of these factors, so you might try doing them all by first logging out of MobileMe and then removing the password from your keychains. Then go to the MobileMe website and change your password. After this is done, restart the computer and then supply the new credentials to the MobileMe *System Preferences* and try accessing your iDisk again. If this works, you can then try changing your password back.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MACFIXIT TIPS / Trouble connecting to the iTunes Store

Some people are having issues upgrading to the latest version of *iTunes* and cannot connect to the store. The app will claim there are problems with your internet connection and states something such as 'iTunes could not connect to the iTunes store. Make sure your network connection is active and try again.'

You may also get an error stating: 'We could not complete your iTunes Store request. An unknown error occured (112222)'. This problem seems to affect only Macs running the latest version of *iTunes*; since PCs, iPads, and iPhones on the same network connect just fine.

In an Apple discussion thread, the most common thing that affected people was location. Those in the UK, Ireland, or Scotland, and use TalkTalk as their ISP, indicated this could be an issue with Apple's servers in the UK or an ISP-specific issue.

Here are some options that have helped so far (after each suggestion try rebooting into Safe Mode, restarting the system again normally, and launching *iTunes*).

Reset warnings and caches

Go to the **Advanced** section of *iTunes'* preferences and click the buttons corresponding to resetting warnings and the *iTunes* cache. This seems to be the most successful fix so far.

Clear iTunes preferences

This may be an issue with corruption in the *iTunes* preference file, which is located in the **/username/Library/Preferences/** folder and is called **com.apple.iTunes.plist**. Quit *iTunes*, remove this file, and relaunch the program and now you can try connecting to the iTunes store again.

Clear user caches

Use a maintenance utility like *OnyX*, *MacKeeper*, *Yasu*, or *Leopard Cache Cleaner* to run a full cache cleaning routine on the system (optionally do a full **General Maintenance** routine).

Reset network connections

Try resetting your network setup by creating a new location in the network system preferences and only adding the network port that you use to the list of network services. Then configure that port for your router/ISP and try connecting again.

Turn off Genius

A couple of people have had success by turning off the **Genius** feature in *iTunes*, which can be done in the **Store** menu. Additionally, try turning off other features like **Home sharing** if you have it enabled. If you then are able to connect to the store you can turn **Genius** back on.

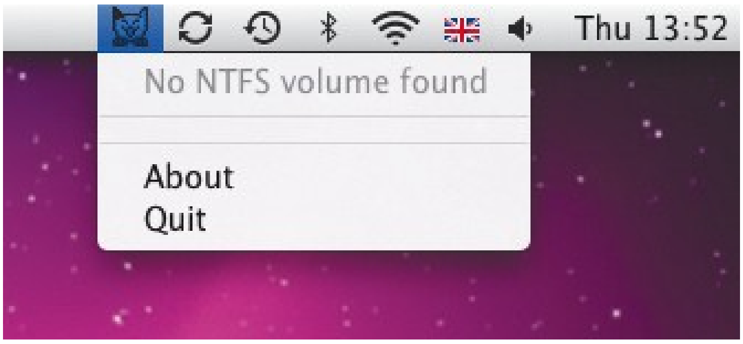
MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

A Most of the new MacBook models tend to be announced in the spring, but you'll find that it's not a hard-and-fast rule particularly, and there have been plenty of models announced at other times of the year. In fact, in 2007 there wasn't a new MacBook model at all.

Refurbished models are a pretty good way to get a cheaper Mac, but you have to be fairly flexible about what you want and when you want it. The items in the refurbished channel are mostly warranty returns that have been repaired and, as such, there is a direct relationship between how fast a model is selling and how many are available in a refurbished condition.

Rumours of an impending spec bump to the MacBook line tend to have the effect of slowing sales of the old model down, so you'll notice there are actually fewer warranty returns and thus fewer refurbished models available.

If you want to scoop yourself a one-revision-out-of-date bargain, another way to do this is to go online. Search eBay auctions immediately after the announcement of a new model, rather than doing this beforehand. There are very often second-hand Macs on sale there from people planning to upgrade to the newest one.



NTFSMounter enables write support for NTFS-formatted drives via Terminal commands.

"My MacBook can't write to external drives"

Q I have a new MacBook and it has started playing up when copying files to flash drives and external hard drives. I cannot transfer files and get this message: 'Finder cannot complete the operation because some data in ... could not be read or written. (Error code -36)'. I have been on forums and I have tried Repair Disk and it says it's OK. When I format the flash drives as Mac OS extended, it works but PCs can't find the flash. If I reformat it to DOS-FAT, PCs can see it again, but I cannot copy anything and get the error code 36!
David Robinson

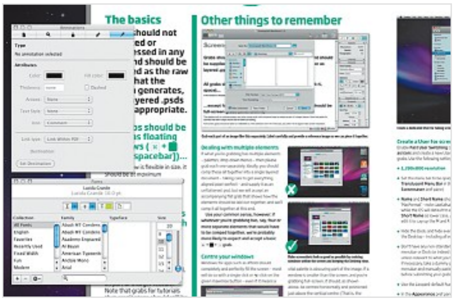
A Error -36 is a generic I/O error used when a filing system operation fails without any specific reason. In theory, OS X should be capable of writing to FAT-32 formatted disks (which is the filing system used when you select 'MS-DOS (FAT)' in *Disk Utility*). But there is a bug that generates this error when writing to FAT-32 drives in certain circumstances. There have been various OS updates claiming to resolve the problem and, in some versions of OS X, it seems to go away. But I'm seeing reports that it has re-emerged in Snow Leopard.

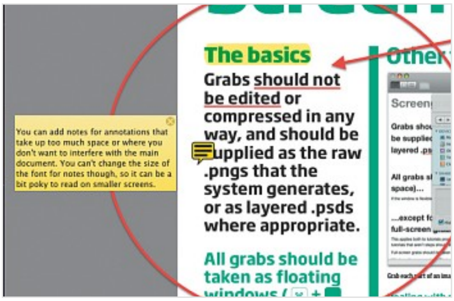
You could reformat your flash drives with NTFS on a PC. OS X is configured to read NTFS volumes by default, but you can turn on write-support using *Terminal* commands or with the free utility at http://ntfsmounter.com/.

QUICK TIP

When *Finder* is in list view, you can rearrange the order that the columns appear in. Just drag the header for each column and they will swap themselves around. The Name column must always appear first though.

HOW TO / Annotate PDF files with Preview. It's easy!

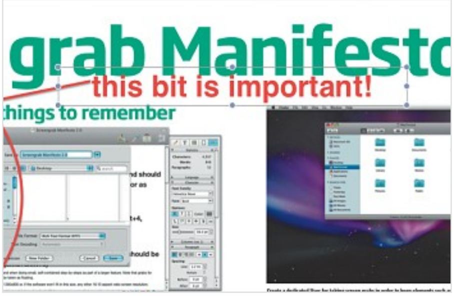



You can add notes for annotations that take up too much space or where you don't want to interfere with the main document. You can't change the size of the font for notes though, so it can be a bit poky to read on smaller screens.

The basics

Grabs should not be edited or compressed in any way, and should be supplied as the raw .pngs that the system generates, or as layered .psds where appropriate.

All grabs should be taken as floating



01 Edit mode

Double-click a PDF file to open it in *Preview* and click **Annotate**. An annotation toolbar will appear with buttons for adding arrows, text and so on. The last three buttons open the inspector panels for colour, line width and font respectively.

02 Add text

Add text onto the PDF by clicking the **Text** button. Drag the sizing rectangle to decide where the text will go, then type. Change the font and colour using the inspector panels. To keep the document clear, add a note and write in the margin.

03 Collaborate

If you have the sidebar displayed (⇧+⌘+D), hit ⇧+⌘+4 to display the annotations made to this document. Click on each to select it. The annotations are saved with the PDF but you can delete them to revert to the original file. ●

QUICK TIP

If you use column view for *Finder*, it can be annoying to waste space with the preview column showing the details for the selected file. Turn this off by hitting ⌘+J to open the view options and untick the 'Show preview column' box.

"When the million-dollar solution doesn't work..."

Q Since installing Snow Leopard, I am unable to open *iWeb* and I then get an error message: 'SFWordprocessing plugin'. This is a known error and I have tried everything that's been recommended, from all sites including removing *Font Book*, the 'million dollar solution' and deleting *iWeb* and reinstalling.

Simon Michaels

A Every now and again, I come across a problem with a high Google presence. There are several forum threads that run for pages and pages, each with dozens of people chiming in to say that a) they also experience this problem b) that they changed x and the problem was magically fixed or c) that they have changed x several times and it makes no difference. This is because what appears to be a simple error, is in fact several errors that happen to share the same cryptic error message. We know that corrupted fonts have caused the problem in some cases, but if it hasn't fixed it for you, then it just means that yours is a different problem. What we also know is that deleting plist files, reinstalling *iWeb* and repairing permissions, haven't fixed the problem for anyone.

If you want a sledgehammer solution, try this: back up your disk, ideally with *Time Machine*. Now perform an Erase and Install of Leopard and immediately upgrade to Snow Leopard, before you restore any data. Open *iWeb* and see if it works. If it does, try restoring your domain files

MACFIXIT TIPS / Safari still crashing after update?

While Apple's latest *Safari* update (5.0.1) is supposed to address some stability issues with the program, a number of people are complaining of crashes. Here are some solutions.

General maintenance

In *Safari*, clear cookies and caches etc in the Reset Safari option. You can also run general maintenance on your system to clear user accounts and system caches.

Adobe Flash

Try removing *Flash* from the **/Macintosh HD/Library/Internet Plug-Ins/** folder to see if that helps. If you need *Flash*, you can install the latest version from Adobe's website after that.

You may also benefit from using a *Flash*-blocking utility such as *Click2Flash* that will disable *Flash* components on web pages unless you specifically enable them.

In addition to *Flash*, if you have other plug-ins that you've installed, you might try uninstalling or updating them. Be sure they have been tested with your version of *Safari* before ruling them out as a cause for the crashes, and also be sure to manually troubleshoot them (remove them one-by-one and relaunch and test *Safari* each time you do this).

Input managers

Third-party input managers – *Saft, Inquisitor, PithHelmet, SafariStand*, and so on – can cause crashes in *Safari*. Update them or remove them from the system. Find them in one of the following folders, but use an uninstaller if one is available:

/username/Library/Input Managers

/Macintosh HD/Library/Input Managers

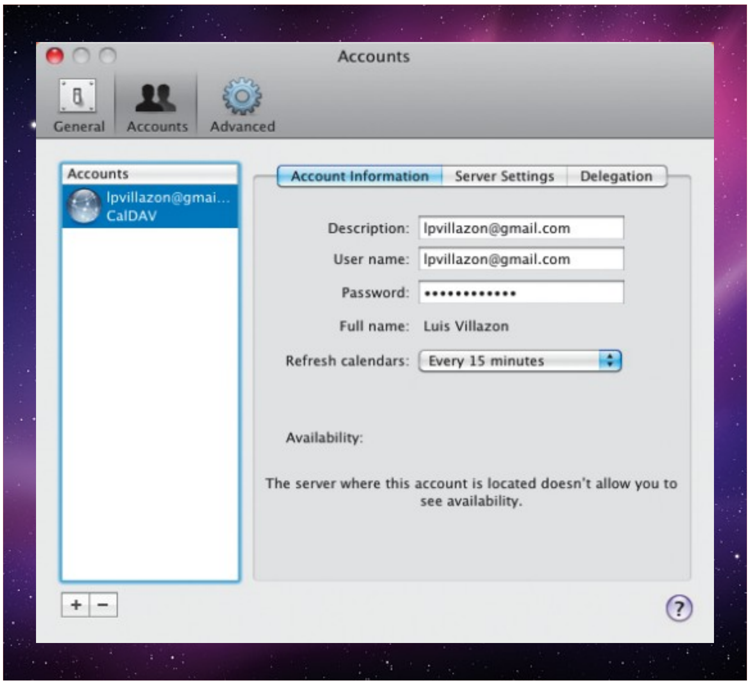
/Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support

A common input manager is SIMBL, which may load many plug-ins that may cause crashes, so be sure to test them as well.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh



Accounts
lpvillazon@gmai…
CalDAV

Description: lpvillazon@gmail.com
User name: lpvillazon@gmail.com
Password: ••••••••••••
Full name: Luis Villazon
Refresh calendars: Every 15 minutes
Availability:
The server where this account is located doesn't allow you to see availability.

iCal will connect to Google Calendars to let you share calendars on the web.

from *Time Machine*. If this stops *iWeb* from working, reinstall again and recreate your domain for that particular site from scratch but using just basic fonts for all the text. Once that's working, you can tentatively try changing the fonts back. This sort of 'it used to work and now it doesn't' problem can be very laborious to fix, I'm afraid. Essentially, you have to roll back your system state to a known good point, and then creep forward again, one step at a time.

"Am I able to use Windows apps on my Mac?"

Q **I am considering buying a Mac and I do have some programs I would like to use. One is a diary PIM, email and accounts package. Is there a program that could run these in the background without installing Windows XP?**
John Pettman

A If you want to run Windows programs under OS X, you can either dual boot with Boot Camp, so that your Mac can boot either in OS X or Windows. Or install a 'hypervisor' app (*Parallels Desktop* or *VMWare Fusion*) to emulate Windows from within OS X. Either way, you will need a valid copy of Windows in order to comply with the licence agreement.

Stepping back though, I hear this sort of request all the time from sat-on-the-fence Mac switchers. Nearly everyone has a Windows app they think they can't live without. But at most, dual-booting or emulating Windows is just a transitional security blanket and they end up switching to Mac apps in the end. If *iCal* and *Mail* don't do what you need, try Gmail and Google Docs.

"How can I connect my camera up to a FireWire device?"

Q **I've just purchased a brand new MacBook but find I can't connect my Canon MVX460 digital video camera to it because the MacBook doesn't have a FireWire port. I tried a FireWire to USB converter to no avail, and Canon tells me that the camera will only work FireWire to FireWire. Surely there mist be an easy way to connect a modern digital camera to a modern MacBook?**
Chris Jenner

A The FireWire port was dropped from the MacBook range back in 2008 (and caused an uproar). The MacBook Pro has FireWire 800 but the MacBook is USB only. I'm not aware of a way around this (there's no ExpressCard slot, either). ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q My Time Capsule/Machine (never know which is the device, which is the software) is running out of space. Of the 1TB I only have 67GB left, as it is filling up with raw photo files from both my iMac and my wife's MacBook Pro.

As I'm currently backing up my raw files to a wired external 1TB disk, I would like to free up some space on it.

Can I just go ahead and throw away, say, all backups made in 2008? Or are there better suggestions? Any useful links that I should read in advance? I wouldn't even mind starting all over again, if that's the preferred way to go. Thanks.

Les Cornwell Joined: 09 Jun 2003 Posts: 6780 Location: Flanders (N.Belgium)

A *Time Machine* is quite intelligent in that, as soon as it senses that the backup hard drive is getting full, it will automatically delete the oldest backups to make space for the newer ones.

If you feel that you want to manually delete old backups yourself from your Time Capsule, simply enter the *Time Machine* Restore interface (just click on the *Time Machine* icon), find and select the files you want removed and, in the Action pop-up menu (gear icon) in the *Time Machine Finder* window, choose Delete All Backups of…

Be sure to only delete files you are convinced you won't need or want to restore later.

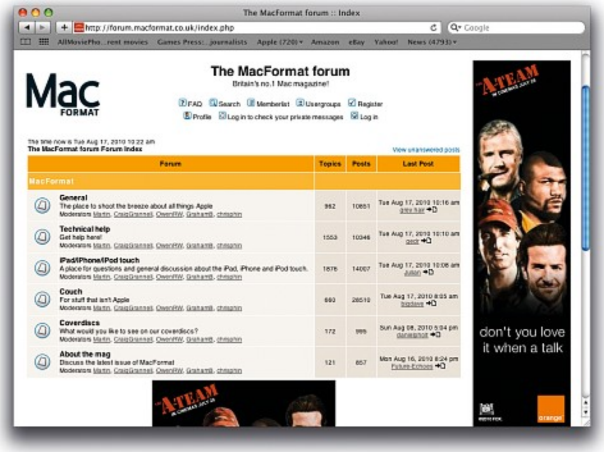
Costas Joined: 03 Jun 2007 Posts: 1681 Location: London

A Yes – just let *Time Machine* do its thing. It doesn't really need your interference! And as for myself, I don't care about *Time Machine* backups that are any more than a couple of months old.

You can use your Time Capsule to hold backups of your raw files – leaving less space for *Time Machine* backups. That way, you'll never have such old backups, because they will be deleted earlier as the need for space demands.

Remember, *Time Machine* is the software; Time Capsule is the drive and router, which I assume you have.

Ramaprem Joined: 28 Dec 2004 Posts: 1498 Location: Freiburg, Germany


The MacFormat forum :: Index
http://forum.macformat.co.uk/index.php
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Mac FORMAT
The MacFormat forum
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FAQ
Search
Memberlist
Usergroups
Register
Profile
Log in to check your private messages
Log in
View unanswered posts
A-TEAM
don't you love it when a talk
orange

The time now is Tue Aug 17, 2010 10:22 am
The MacFormat forum Forum Index

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Reviews

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

The mid-2010 iMac refresh sees the entire range move over to the new Core-i series processors, finally retiring that old warhorse, the Core 2 Duo. With every off-the-shelf iMac now offering a Core i3 or a Core i5, could it be long before Apple’s entire Mac range moves over to Intel’s exciting new CPUs? Alas, that can’t happen yet. A licensing dispute stops NVIDIA graphics chipsets being integrated into Intel Core-i processors, and the Mac mini and 13-inch notebooks are too small for discrete chips. Until this is settled, we won’t see Core-i series processors in the smallest Macs. It’s great to see a discrete graphics processor in the formerly integrated-only entry-level iMac, though. Read all about it on page 88.

Twitter is taking the internet by storm, but which Mac client should you go for? There are so many to choose from, and who has the time to test them all? Craig Grannell did it so you don’t have to. His group test separates the tweets from the twits, starting on page 108, and includes a piece on the best iPhone clients for tweeting on the move.

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RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> DESKTOP COMPUTERS

iMac 21.5-inch 3.06GHz and iMac 27-inch 3.2GHz

£1000, £1400 The entire iMac range now uses Intel Core-i processors, but which one's right for you?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

iMac 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
Processor: 3.06GHz Intel Core i3 **RAM:** 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 SDRAM (2x2GB) **Hard disk:** 1TB 7200-rpm Serial ATA **Display:** 1920x1080-pixel 21.5-inch LED-backlit widescreen **Graphics:** ATI Radeon HD 5670 with 512MB

iMac 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
Processor: 3.2GHz Intel Core i3 **RAM:** 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 SDRAM (2x2GB), **Hard disk:** 1TB 7200-rpm Serial ATA **Display:** 2560x1440-pixel 27-inch LED-backlit widescreen **Graphics:** ATI Radeon HD 5670 with 512MB

PROS & CONS

iMac 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- ⊕ Gorgeous screen
- ⊕ New CPU and GPU
- ⊕ Better SD card reader
- ⊖ No Blu-ray or anti-glare option

iMac 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
- ⊕ Enormous and clear display
- ⊕ Fast processor and graphics card
- ⊕ SSD option
- ⊖ No Blu-ray or anti-glare option

VERDICT

iMac 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
★★★★½
"A superb upgrade that takes the iMac a huge step forward."

iMac 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
★★★★☆
"An affordable high-end iMac, considering the quality of the components."

The mid-2010 iMac refresh is more than just an incremental upgrade. Three of the four models get a new processor, switching from the Core 2 Duo to Intel Core i3. Everything gets a graphical upgrade courtesy of ATI too. Retaining the form factor introduced with the 2009 refresh, two machines offer 21.5-inch displays and two more have 27-inch screens. At the bottom end of the range, the 21.5-inch entry-level iMac (on test here) now has a 3.06GHz Core i3 CPU and an ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR3 memory.

Bigger and better

This is a significant step up from the previous low-end 21.5-inch model, a 3.06GHz Core 2 Duo that relied on an integrated NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and didn't have a discrete graphics chip at all. The more expensive 21.5-inch iMac, and the cheaper 27-inch model (also on test here), have 3.2GHz Core i3 CPUs and ATI Radeon HD 5670 GPUs. The top-of-the-range release gets a 2.8GHz quad-core Core i5 (up from 2.66GHz) and Radeon HD 5750 graphics with 1GB of memory.

The new iMac's Core i3 chips give a significant power advantage over their Core 2 Duo predecessors. Hyper-Threading technology enables each of the chips' two cores to run two threads at once, for a total of four virtual cores. This means the processor can spread tasks much more efficiently, especially when running multiple applications at the same time. In our Cinebench rendering test, the 21.5-inch, 3.06GHz model reviewed here was 7% faster than a 3.06GHz Core 2 Duo from the previous generation when using a single core, but with all available cores active, it outperformed its predecessor by 33.4%. The 3.2GHz 27-inch iMac proved 11% and 38% faster respectively.

> *"The processor can spread tasks much more efficiently, especially when running multiple applications at the same time"*

Thanks to the new graphics chip, the entry-level iMac now puts in a good gaming performance. With *Doom 3* running at a screen res of 1024x768 pixels and video settings at ultra-high quality, it turned in a frame rate of 132.2 FPS. The 3.2GHz 27-inch model ran the game at 133.4FPS. However, unlike the Core i5 and Core i7, the Core i3 has no Turbo Boost feature to enable the processor to shut down unused cores and transfer the power to active ones.

As always, if you buy from the online Apple store you can customise your Mac according to your requirements. There's a faster processor available for all four iMacs, and the Bluetooth small form factor keyboard can be swapped for a full-sized USB model at no extra cost. You can add more memory to the 4GB available off the shelf, up to a maximum of 16GB for the 27-inch models but only 8GB for the smaller iMacs. This is surprising considering all mid-2010 iMacs are quite capable of using 16GB. Equally bizarre, three of the four iMacs can enjoy hard drive upgrades, but if you invest in the

Star Trek is available for pre-order on iTunes.

The 21.5-inch iMac is dwarfed by the huge 27-inch machine.

TECH BRIEFING/ Intel's Core-i processors

The mid-2010 revision sees Apple's iMac range move over to Intel's new Core-i processors, with the older Core 2 Duo chips now only used in the Mac mini and 13-inch notebooks. Three of the four off-the-shelf iMac configurations use Core i3 chips, with the top-of-the-range 27-inch model boasting a Core i5. If you order your iMac through the online Apple store and use the custom options, you can upgrade the more expensive 21.5-inch iMac and the cheaper 27-inch model to a Core i5 instead of a Core i3. The high-end Core i5 27-inch iMac can be upgraded to a Core i7. But clock speed aside, what's the difference between Core i3, Core i5 and Core i7 processors, and which is right for you?

Core i3 processors are the entry-level Core-i series CPUs. All Core i3 chips are dual core, and include a Hyper-Threading function whereby each of the chips' cores can run two processes at once, giving a total of four virtual cores. Core i5 chips are available in both dual- and quad-core versions. As well as Hyper-Threading, all Core i5 and Core i7 chips offer Turbo Boost functionality, a technology that boosts the processor's clock speed based on workload. When running an app that can't use every available core, Turbo Boost enables unused cores to be shut down, and their power transferred to active cores. For example, a 2.66GHz Core i7 processor runs at up to 3.06GHz on dual-core tasks, and when only one core is used, it can reach 3.33GHz. For laptops, there are dual- and quad-core Core i7s, and quad- and six-core chips for desktops, not all of which have made it into Macs to date.

intel
CORE i5
inside
intel

All Core i5 and Core i7 chips have Turbo Boost to enhance the processors' clock speeds.

entry-level machine, you're stuck with 500GB. This is a pity, as it's a little small by today's standards and iMac hard drives aren't user-changeable.

The 27-inch iMacs also offer another hard-drive configuration option. As well as upgrading a 1TB to a 2TB drive, you can ditch the HDD altogether in favour of a 256GB solid-state drive, or even have both a hard drive and a solid-state drive installed.

The price to pay

This is currently very expensive (adding solid-state storage to your 1TB drive costs £600), but don't forego a SSD with the intention of getting one fitted later, when prices drop. If your iMac doesn't have a solid-state drive installed out of the factory, it won't have the required brackets and connectors.

The screen hasn't changed, but it didn't need to. It retains a 16:9-ratio widescreen display, based on IPS technology for good viewing angles. At 1920x1080 pixel resolution for the 21.5-inch model and 2560x1440 for the 27-inch display, it's ideal for watching high-definition video as well as day-to-day computing. This makes Apple's ongoing refusal to support Blu-ray even more surprising. The optical drive is the same as the last generation's, as evidenced by the negligible improvement in *iTunes* encoding speeds. We appreciate Apple's pushing HD downloads on *iTunes*, but denying Mac users the opportunity to play their Blu-ray movies on their computers is annoying. A Blu-ray drive should at least be available as a custom option, even if it's not installed by default.

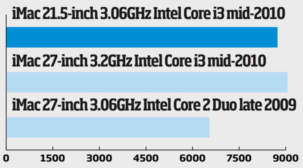
We would also welcome an anti-glare screen. Most iMac users are happy with its glossy display, but some would prefer a matte finish. This is available as a custom option for MacBook Pros, so why not iMacs?

> *"The screen hasn't changed, but it didn't need to. It retains a 16:9-ratio display, based on IPS technology for good viewing angles"*

Elsewhere, a few rumoured updates failed to materialise. With the exception of the upgraded SD card reader, which now supports the SDXC format for a theoretical maximum card capacity of 2TB, the connectivity ports remain the same. Don't expect USB 3.0 or FireWire 1600. The display isn't a touchscreen either, and there's no integration with iOS, though some pundits suggest this will happen with the next release of Mac OS, 10.7.

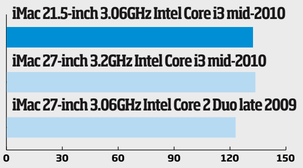
Both models reviewed here have undergone a small price increase. The 21.5-inch 3.06GHz iMac now sells for £999, up from £969, and the 27-inch 3.2GHz Core i3 version is up to £1,399 from £1,378. Apple is clearly sticking to its refresh policy of upgrading internal components while keeping the price points the same, barring small inflationary increases. Yet the improvements certainly make the new machines much better value for money than their predecessors. A few omissions aside (most notable of which is Blu-ray), this is exactly the refresh we were waiting for. **IO**

BENCHMARKS / How do the machines stack up?



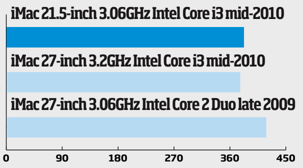
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, Cinebench reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3's* 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR.

>> BOOMBOX

Altec Lansing MIX iMT800

£190 The speaker dock with an 80s twist

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Altec Lansing
www.alteclansing.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs: 1x Universal iPod/iPhone dock, 2xAUX **Dimensions:** 19.5x50x24cm **Weight:** 4.6kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ A big, full sound
- ⊕ iPhone compatible
- ⊕ Lots of bass
- ⊖ No AM radio

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great take on the iPod speaker dock, but perhaps a little bass-heavy."

Mac Format This Week
ALTEC

Altec Lansing's MIX is styled after an 80s boombox.

The 80s was a curious decade. The music was synthesised clicks and bleeps, the movies were violent and shallow, and the fashions made men look like women and the women look like discarded Christmas decorations. But even if its popular culture is best forgotten, its technology is fondly remembered. The 80s gave us the personal stereo and the ghetto blaster, and this unapologetically retro speaker system brings the descendants of these two concepts together, packing that most modern technology, the iPod dock, into an 80s-style boombox.

The MIX iMT800 runs on batteries, as well as mains, and offers two auxiliary inputs alongside an iPod dock so you can connect up to three audio players. It's loud enough to fill a decent-sized room and also has an FM radio with four presets.

Altec Lansing is known for speaker docks that sound bigger than they are, and this one's no exception. It gives a rounded sound, with its extensive driver set giving lots of top, middle and bottom. As you'd expect from a boombox it's bass heavy, though if you find it swamps the mix, there's a user-controlled graphic equaliser. Every instrument is defined, though the sound isn't shaped as well as it might be. Not everyone will like the MIX iMT800's retro styling and bass-heavy sound, but if you miss your floorboard-shaking 80s ghetto blaster, you'll love it. **IO**

>> DIGITAL COMPACT CAMERA

Canon IXUS 300 HS

£329 An innovative point-and-shooter

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Canon
www.canon.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 10MP **Lens:** 3.8x zoom **Viewfinder:** 3in 230.000-pixel TFT LCD **Memory card formats:** SD, SDHC, SDXC **Dimensions:** 10 x 5.4 x 2.4cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ 720p HD video recording
- ⊕ Aperture & shutter speed control
- ⊕ Shirt-pocket size
- ⊖ Luxury price tag

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Low-light performance is great, with aperture control adding to its appeal."

Canon
IXUS 300 HS
CANON ZOOM LENS 3.8x IS 4.9-18.6mm 1:2.0-5.3
10.0 MEGA PIXELS
ON/OFF

A convenient compact with distinctly impressive results.

Canon's latest IXUS camera comes in a choice of a black, silver or white, and from the outside it looks unremarkable. Although, as you'd guess from its luxury price tag, appearances are deceiving...

The HS in the name stands for 'high speed' – and it is clear that Canon has tried to make this the fastest pocket camera it could produce. There's a 'motordrive' setting that enables it to shoot stills at 3.7 frames per second for as long as you keep your finger on the shutter button. It can also shoot high-definition 720p movies at 30FPS, too, and there is a special action mode, which enables you to shoot at 240FPS for stop-motion analysis and slow-motion effects.

This IXUS uses a backlit CMOS sensor, which is designed to provide high ISO shots in lowlight, with less grain and noise than its rivals. With a top setting of ISO3200, this proves to be very impressive, delivering clean pictures without flash after dark.

The zoom has a limited range, but offers a 28mm-equivalent wide-angle setting for interior and architectural shots. The maximum aperture is also faster than most with an f/2 wide-open option at the widest end of the 3.8x image-stabilised zoom. You also get full control over the aperture and shutter speed when you're using the aperture priority semi-automatic exposure setting favoured by serious SLR users.

A drawback of the camera is that the simplified styling means the buttons are poorly labelled, and many power functions need to be hunted out in on-screen menus. **CGE**

Apple's new Magic Trackpad is designed to complement your Mac's aluminium keyboard.

Photography by Dave Caudrey

>> TRACKPAD CONTROLLER

Apple Magic Trackpad

£59 Trackpad technology brings multi-touch gestures to your desktop Mac

When picking through your snaps in *iPhoto*, do you wish you could zoom into or rotate your images with a pinching or twisting gesture? If so, Apple has answered your pleas. The Magic Trackpad brings the MacBook's trackpad technology to Apple's desktop range, and does so very well.

The Magic Trackpad is styled to perfectly complement your Mac's keyboard. It's made from the same brushed aluminium and sits at the same angle on your desk. It's a different experience to using a MacBook trackpad though. For a start, at around 13cm square, it's roughly 80% larger than a MacBook trackpad.

If you own an Apple notebook, or an iPhone or iPad, then the Trackpad's pointer control and gestures should be familiar. Drag a finger around the pad to move the cursor, and two fingers to scroll. The whole surface of the pad acts as a mouse button, and you can set it up to replicate the functionality of a one-button or two-button mouse as you wish. But it's the gestures that really shine. Scrolling, pinching, swiping, app switching, screen zoom, double-click – it's all at your fingertips.

The Magic Trackpad is fully configurable via a new *System Preferences* pane installed with the latest software upgrade. Inertial scrolling, introduced to the MacBook Pro range this year, is also catered for. With this feature switched on, a scrolling window doesn't just stop when you lift your fingers from the Trackpad, but maintains a momentum depending on how fast you were moving it.

> *"The Trackpad brings the MacBook's technology to Apple's desktop range, and does so very well"*

The Magic Trackpad can't replace a mouse for everything. Gamers in particular need the greater precision offered by a mouse, and a graphic artist would be better off with a proper pen-based tablet device, but for general productivity and day-to-day computing, the versatility offered by a trackpad is very welcome. If you're running Snow Leopard on a desktop Mac, then the Magic Trackpad could become a permanent fixture on your desk, but next to – not instead of – your mouse. **IO**

CONTACTS

Manufacturer Apple

www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Connectivity: Bluetooth **Range:** 10 metres **OS:** OS X 10.6.4, Snow Leopard **Power:** 2xAA batteries **Dimensions:** 13.13x13.01x1.83cm **Weight** (without batteries): 140g

PROS & CONS

- + Full trackpad control
- + Complements Apple's keyboard
- + Complete gesture range
- – Snow Leopard only

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Well conceived and beautifully executed. It's well worth a try."

>> 3G MODEM

3 MiFi Mobile Wi-Fi (Huawei E585)

£40 (PAYG price) Yet another convenient way to get online away from home

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Huawei
www.three.co.uk/MiFi

SPECIFICATIONS

Battery life: 4.5 hours
Simultaneous connections: Five
Networks: 3 Mobile (locked)
Dimensions: 9.6x1.4x5cm
Weight: 90g

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easier to use than before
- ⊕ Clear, informative display
- ⊖ Purchased data expires
- ⊖ Limited battery life

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Incredibly convenient and brilliantly designed, but unfair price plans."

With a MiFi, you can create your own carry-anywhere wireless hotspot and use it to go online using 3G. The 3 MiFi Mobile Wi-Fi can simultaneously connect to up to five Wi-Fi-enabled devices such as your MacBook, iPhone, iPod touch or iPad. Its range is around 10 metres when powered by your computer's USB port or its rechargeable four-and-a-half-hour battery, or 30 metres when connected to the mains. It can get you online wherever there's 3 Mobile connectivity, which is claimed to be over 92% of the UK.

The Huawei E585 is a big improvement on its predecessor, the E5830. The previous model had a terribly confusing array of buttons to press to create a hotspot. In its new incarnation it's much easier. The OLED display gives much more information, such as network strength, battery life, how many devices are connected, how much data you've used during this session and more. Account details can be accessed through a web browser, from where you can also manage data on the optional MicroSD card that can be slotted into the E585 device for mobile storage.

3 MiFi Mobile Wi-Fi is incredibly easy to set up and use, and is great for getting online. Speeds are as fast as you'd expect for a mobile network, and in our experience, coverage is pretty comprehensive. Our only significant complaint is that although the pay-as-you-go data costs are reasonable at £10 for 1GB, £15 for 3GB and £25 for 7GB (contract plans are also available), purchased data must be used within a month. This sort of data restriction feels grossly unfair to us. **IO**

It's handy enough to fit in your pocket, so you can take your hotspot with you.

>> MOBILE HARD DISK SYSTEM

Freecom Mobile Drive CLS

Dock £12, drives from £61 (250GB) Hard drives, with a retro spin

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Freecom
www.freecom.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 250, 320, 500, 640GB
Hard disk form factor: 2.5-inch
Interfaces: USB 2.0 **Dimensions:** 10.9x7.9x1.3cm **Weight:** 155g

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Clever, useful design
- ⊕ Case protects and includes cable
- ⊕ Retro aesthetics
- ⊖ Standard drives cheaper per GB

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A neat, inexpensive hard disk docking system that makes us go all nostalgic."

You might look at these hard drives and get all nostalgic for tapes and other old analogue media. But the drives themselves are absolutely standard: bus-powered through their USB connection, and capable of a decent, respectable 28MB/sec write and 35MB/sec read for large contiguous files. They are coated in velvety rubber and come in chunky translucent plastic boxes which are not only great for protection during transport, but also hold a handy index card – and a short USB cable so you can connect the drives wherever you go.

The drives themselves have a little slip of card along the edge, protected by a plastic fascia, that you can write on – handy, since hard disks are now sufficiently cheap that it's not out of the question to keep several drives for different areas of your life, even if you're using your Mac for fun rather than work. (Indeed, the drives' cases stack and lock together beautifully.)

Using hard disks with a standard mini USB interface is smarter than a cartridge system like the old Zip disks, as you don't need hardware to load them; USB is likely to hang around for a while, and the disk mechanisms ought to be robust enough to be reliable medium-term storage.

You can buy a cheap powered dock on which to mount three of the drives at once through a single USB port. But if you add a drive with one or more already docked, it unmounts all drives before mounting the new ones, which causes OS X to complain. **CP**

Not just a lovely reminder of analogue days, but a decent-value portable hard disk system.

The new Axioms have a sci-fi matte grey finish, while the more button-laden Pro line comes in gleaming white.

Photography by Dave Caudrey

>>USB MUSIC KEYBOARD CONTROLLER

M-Audio Axiom 49

£270 With sleek looks, more controls and 'DirectLink' with your software, does the Axiom rock hard?

Any MIDI keyboard can make your copy of *GarageBand* or *Logic* come to life. But in a crowded market of bargain-priced 'boards you need something with that little bit extra.

M-Audio's Axioms have been around for years and last year the new Pro line added the ability to control your software directly from buttons on the keyboard. This feature has now filtered down to the more affordable Axiom 61 (£305), 49 (this model) and 25 (£195).

So, rather than have your mouse in one hand while your other belts out Bach, you can pretty much forget your computer and get on with making music. It's amazing how simple additions such as dedicated buttons for stop, play and record speed up your workflow, and 'tweaking' synthesizers and effects with dedicated knobs finally feels like grappling with an antique Moog. (Antique Moog plug-in not supplied.)

It's M-Audio's *DirectLink* that's the star. A quick install and the Axiom found our *Logic* setup (we had similar success with *GarageBand* and *Ableton Live* too), and all the obvious features such as track levels and pan appeared on the keyboard's controls.

And if you use complex third-party plugs, you can get locked into the world of control changes and make any dial do anything in your DAW. It works too, and after grappling with controllers that promised the earth only to glitch and grump, that's the biggest praise we can give.

> *"It's amazing how simple additions such as dedicated buttons for play and record speed up workflow"*

The Axiom's keyboard is 'ultra-expressive semi-weighted', but this amounts to it being very firmly sprung in the initial stages and rather 'clacky' and weak when depressed. However, the large angular profile does help fool the senses into thinking you're pressing something more piano-like.

The drum pads are well-sized but spongy. Likewise, the rest of the rubberised controls require a good push to operate. That said, compared to the frail plastic on other keyboards, this is much more gig-resistant.

You're paying for something just that little bit more 'pro' here, but it's worth the extra. **DG**

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: M-Audio
www.maudio.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Keys: 49 **Assignable sliders:** 9 **Assignable buttons with LED feedback:** 9 **Assignable knobs:** 8 **Assignable drum pads:** 8 **Transport controls:** 6

PROS & CONS

⊕ DirectLink is a major plus
⊕ Laden with controls - that work
⊖ Non-pro keyboard actions
⊖ There are many cheaper options

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Well built and feature-packed. Its ease and speed justify the price tag."

01
02
03
04
FRITZ!
WLAN REPEATER
sharkoon
POWER
IDE
SNOOZE
gear4

>> SATA/IDE DOCK

SHARKOON QuickPort

£36 www.sharkoon.com

01 We've seen plenty of docking stations for bare SATA drives, but none of them worked with the older IDE standard too. SHARKOON's QuickPort SATA/IDE Dock rectifies this rather curious omission, so those out-of-date and unloved IDE drives at the back of your drawer can gain a new lease of life for storing digital archives. The QuickPort offers SATA or USB connectivity. Setting up is as simple as plugging it in, and both 2.5- and 3.5-inch drives are catered for. IDE drives are connected by plugging in a power cable and ribbon into the dock front, which is inelegant, but effective.

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A useful bare-drive dock that could give your old IDE hard disks a new lease of life."

>> WI-FI EXTENDER

FRITZ!WLAN Repeater N/G

£76 www.avm.de/en

02 A well positioned repeater can extend the reach of your wireless network. This model from AVM amplifies both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands, and can be set up with a couple of button-clicks if you have a FRITZ!Box router. Even if you own a different brand it's still useful, despite the Windows-only online connection wizard. It loses marks for a Mac-unfriendly audio streaming feature and European plug; to use it in the UK, you need an adapter. Even so, if you want to use a MacBook in the attic or at the bottom of the garden but your network just won't reach, this could be just what you need.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"This repeater has great functionality, but it could be more Mac-friendly."

>> V-MODA EARBUDS

Remix Remote

£90 www.v-moda.com

03 These iPhone-compatible earbuds with inline controls are designed with the active user in mind. As well as a velvet carry pouch and a generous selection of spare tips, you also get a set of sports earhooks and a cable clip to keep everything in place while you're out jogging. If you have a compatible iPhone or iPod, you can adjust the volume from the inline controls too. They're comfortable in the ears and sound isolation is excellent. They do a good job of shaping the audio, with solid bass and clear vocals, though the mid-section isn't quite as well defined. Great sound quality overall, though.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A solid set of earbuds with real character. Great for the gym or when out and about."

>> GEAR4 iPOD DOCK

AlarmDock Reveal

£50 www.gear4.com

04 GEAR4's pint-sized AlarmDock Reveal is built to sit on your bedside table. It has an FM radio with five programmable presets as well as an iPod dock. Two alarms can be set to wake you with the radio, a buzzer or your iPhone's iPod feature. There's no DAB, no internet radio, and there's not even a remote. This no-frills approach is carried over to the audio quality. Although surprisingly powerful for its size, the sound lacks character, and distorts at even moderately loud volumes. It's not a disaster at the price, but you might prefer to spend a little more on a higher-quality device.

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"Cheap and convenient, but the GEAR4 dock puts in a workmanlike performance."

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?
Yep!

Complete Maccess

The new LogMeIn Pro² for Mac gives you the freedom to remotely access your Mac – anywhere, anytime.

More freedom to be a Mac

Pro² for Mac lets you access and manage your remote Mac from virtually any internet-enabled device – even a PC. It gives you more freedom to roam knowing you're not leaving anything behind.

You can even transfer files, print from a remote Mac to the nearest printer and share your desktop so you can collaborate on the go.

Whether you want more mobility or easier access to apps and information, we invite you to try out LogMeIn. It's simple, fast and comprehensive.

Anytime, Anywhere Remote Access to Your Mac.

LogMeIn
Pro²

www.LogMeIn.com/Welcome/Pro4Mac

>> VIDEO ENCODER

Elgato Turbo.264 HD Software Edition

£40 Can Elgato compete with free alternatives?

CONTACTS

Developer: Elgato
www.elgato.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later
Processor: Intel **RAM:** 512MB
Other: QuickTime 7.6 or later

PROS & CONS

⊕ Very user-friendly
⊕ Speeds up video encoding
⊕ Excellent picture quality
⊖ No upgrade path or PPC version

VERDICT

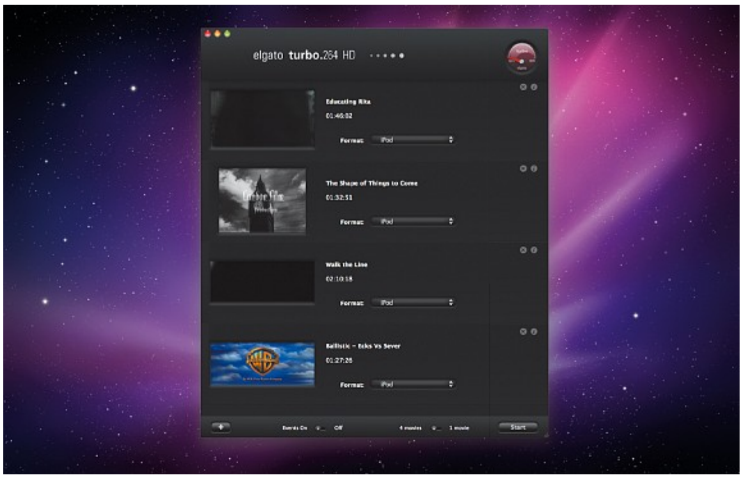
★★★★☆

"A classy app, but for heavy work, the hardware release is a better option."

Elgato has released a software-only version of its hardware-accelerated video encoder in response to customer demand. Designed to convert video for use on an iPod, iPhone, Apple TV or other device, this *Software Edition* is identical to the app bundled with the hardware dongle. It's easy to use. Just browse to or drag-and-drop a video file and select an output format. It can handle most popular video formats, converts VIDEO_TS, the format used by DVD video discs, but won't rip an encrypted DVD. It's not as configurable as *Handbrake* (a free app), but settings can be customised.

In our tests, on a 3.2GHz Core-i3 iMac, *Handbrake* converted our five-minute test video to iPod format in 86 seconds. *Turbo.264 HD Software Edition* took 57 seconds, with the hardware version a second quicker. On a 2GHz Core 2 Duo iMac, *Handbrake* took 173 seconds with *Software Edition* converting in 115 seconds, and the hardware-assisted version in 81 seconds – the less powerful your Mac, the greater benefits of Turbo.264 HD.

With no upgrade path for *Software Edition* users, you might prefer to dive straight in and buy the hardware version, which is available for £90 on Amazon. As well as being quicker, it takes the load off your processor if you're using your Mac. For the lighter user, the *Software Edition* offers advantages over free alternatives. **IO**



Elgato's Turbo.264 HD Software Edition enables you to queue movies for conversion.

>> EMAIL BACKUP SOFTWARE

Softhing Entourage Time Machine 1.0

£20 Want to archive your email messages?

CONTACTS

Developer: Softhing
www.softhing.com/etm.html

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or 10.6 or later
Other: Microsoft Entourage 2008

PROS & CONS

⊕ Sensible way to archive messages
⊕ Neat, simple interface
⊖ No faster with large archives
⊖ Some bugs and rough edges

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A good idea for Entourage users, but for £20 we'd want more polish. At least it's free (and easy) to try."

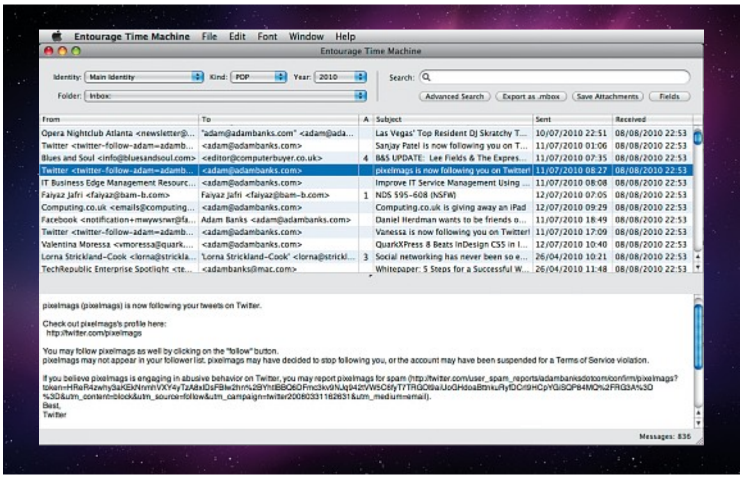
Entourage is the email app that comes with *Microsoft Office* for Mac. Some people prefer it to Apple's *Mail*. Others (like us) use it because IT departments insist on it, typically to work with a Microsoft Exchange server, although *Mail* also now supports Exchange.

Entourage's problem is that it stores mailboxes in a single file called 'Database'. Most people hang on to emails as a record, and it's not ideal to have all your eggs in one large basket. Any file that's constantly read and written is liable to corruption. And if you include it in your backups using Mac OS X's *Time Machine*, that's a big chunk of data to update.

Entourage Time Machine from Softhing aims to help. With one click, it copies all your messages to a set of XML files. You can then browse and search these in a viewer. It's simple and it works, but not perfectly. Currently only POP accounts are handled. Archiving around 50,000 messages, we found the initial backup glitchy. Incremental backups are quick, but they can't be automated.

The viewer only shows plain text, so HTML emails are garbled. The developers claim searching emails is faster than with *Entourage*. But entering search terms often gave us an error, and when it worked it was slow – as was folder switching.

The app's not quite there yet, but it has some interesting potential. **AB**



Identity: Main Identity Kind: POP Year: 2010
Folder: Inbox

From	To	A	Subject	Sent	Received
Opera Nightclub Atlanta <newsletter@...	"adam@adambanks.com" <adam@ada...		Las Vegas' Top Resident DJ Skratchy T...	10/07/2010 22:51	08/08/2010 22:53
Twitter <twitter-follow-adam=adamb...	<adam@adambanks.com>		Sanjay Patel is now following you on T...	11/07/2010 01:06	08/08/2010 22:53
Blues and Soul <info@bluesandsoul.com>	<editor@computerbuyer.co.uk>	4	B&S UPDATE: Lee Fields & The Expres...	11/07/2010 07:35	08/08/2010 22:53
Twitter <twitter-follow-adam=adamb...	<adam@adambanks.com>		pixelmags is now following you on Twitter!	11/07/2010 08:27	08/08/2010 22:53
IT Business Edge Management Resourc...	<adam@adambanks.com>		Improve IT Service Management Using ...	11/07/2010 08:08	08/08/2010 22:53
Faiyaz Jafri <faiyaz@bam-b.com>	Faiyaz Jafri <faiyaz@bam-b.com>	1	NDS 595-608 (NSFW)	12/07/2010 07:05	08/08/2010 22:53
Computing.co.uk <emails@computing...	<adam@adambanks.com>		Computing.co.uk is giving away an iPad	12/07/2010 09:29	08/08/2010 22:53
Facebook <notification+mwywsnwr@fa...	Adam Banks <adam@adambanks.com>		Daniel Herdman wants to be friends o...	11/07/2010 18:49	08/08/2010 22:53
Twitter <twitter-follow-adam=adamb...	<adam@adambanks.com>		Vanessa is now following you on Twitter!	11/07/2010 17:09	08/08/2010 22:53
Valentina Moressa <vmoressa@quark....	<adam@adambanks.com>		QuarkXPress 8 Beats InDesign CS5 in I...	12/07/2010 10:40	08/08/2010 22:53
Lorna Strickland-Cook <lorna@strickla...	'Lorna Strickland-Cook' <lorna@strickl...	3	Social networking has never been so e...	26/04/2010 10:21	08/08/2010 22:53
TechRepublic Enterprise Spotlight <te...	<adambanks@mac.com>		Whitepaper: 5 Steps for a Successful W...	26/04/2010 11:48	08/08/2010 22:53

pixelmags (pixelmags) is now following your tweets on Twitter.

Check out pixelmags's profile here:
http://twitter.com/pixelmags

You may follow pixelmags as well by clicking on the "follow" button.
pixelmags may not appear in your follower list. pixelmags may have decided to stop following you, or the account may have been suspended for a Terms of Service violation.

If you believe pixelmags is engaging in abusive behavior on Twitter, you may report pixelmags for spam (http://twitter.com/user_spam_reports/adambanksdotcom/confirm/pixelmags?
Best,
Twitter

Messages: 836

The viewer lets you sort and search your archived messages, but only plain text is shown.

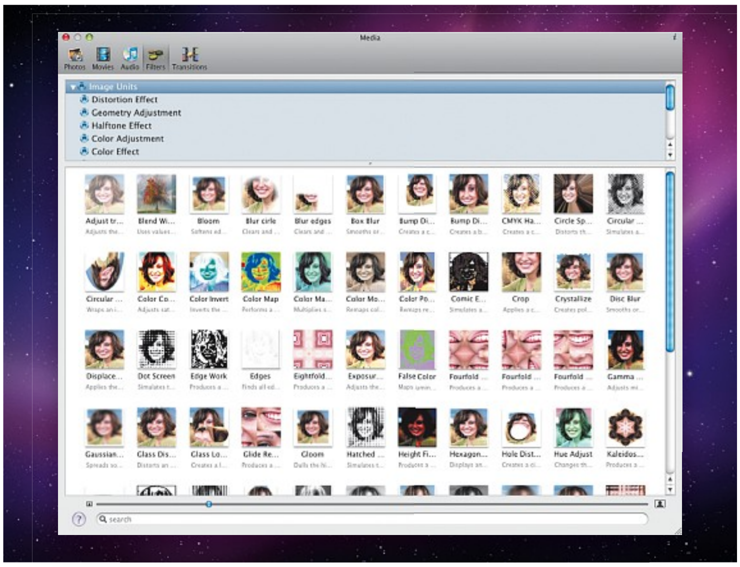
» MOVIE EDITING SOFTWARE

Norrkross Movie

£25 Can Norrkross Movie fill the gap between iMovie and Final Cut Express?

While *iMovie* gains significant features in every new release, there's still a big leap from it to *Final Cut Express*, with regard to both accessibility and capability. *Norrkross Movie* is aiming to fill that space with some high-end options packed into an intuitive layout.

The important steps up from *iMovie* are the addition of persistent tracks in the timeline for layered editing and compositing, a much wider range of file import options, a larger choice of effects, and several options for keyframing and nodal compositing of video.



The media browser can be resized and icons made larger, but the overlaid window annoys.

Options aplenty

The tracks all have an icon that shows how they interact with the others around them. It's set to overlay by default, but you can add colour-adjusted transparency effects in a matter of seconds. The difference between most of them is subtle, but the sheer choice is impeccable. A proper timeline means keyframing of effects can be introduced, and it works well here. It can either be added using just the canvas and timeline, or precisely controlled using the Filters Node View on the left. Our issue with the tracks is that there's no separation of the audio from the video. *iMovie* enables you to overlap the audio from one clip to another in the precision editor, but in *Norrkross* you'd be forced to use an overlay edit to hide the first clip from view, and reduce the volume of the second clip to 0. It's clumsy in practice, and we'd prefer the chance to address editing the audio directly.

> *"A huge advantage of Norrkross is the ability to handle just about any video format your Mac can play – we even imported WebM"*

The inclusion of nodal compositing is very interesting indeed. Its only appearance in an Apple product is in *Shake*, part of *Final Cut Studio*, so we're talking about a fairly professional feature. It effectively enables you to add multiple filters to a clip and then see and control the order they're applied. For example, if you wanted to remove a green screen background on a clip but also apply motion blur, you can use the nodes to ensure the Make Color Transparent clip is applied before Motion Blur. If it were the other way around, you'd be trying to remove green that blurs into your subject. It's a subtle tool, but one that offers a lot of headroom once you gain confidence with it.

A huge advantage of *Norrkross* is its ability to handle just about any video format your Mac can play – we even managed to import WebM video without any problems. However, it can't capture footage, only import files. Neither can it export to many formats, but it can do various video sizes in H.264.

The real problem with *Norrkross* is a lack of polish. There are typos in menus, and the Hide Toolbar option doesn't change to Show Toolbar once you've hidden it. You can't position the playhead and then drag to it a clip to trim, because the action moves the playhead. There are also far too few keyboard shortcuts, and what is there is often convoluted.

Flies in the ointment

CPU usage can occasionally spike for no discernible reason, and the Media browser can only be viewed as a windowed overlay, but it would be best as a tab in the main program.

If you're looking at upgrading from *iLife '09*, *Norrkross* offers strong features at an appealing price. If you've already got the latest *iMovie*, it's a tougher choice. **MB**

CONTACTS

Developer: Norrkross Software

www.norrkross.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 recommended

Processor: G4 or later

RAM: 1GB recommended

PROS & CONS

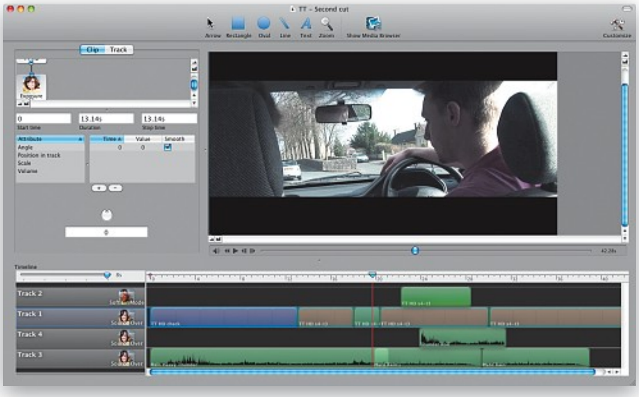
- ⊕ Nodal compositing
- ⊕ Room to grow your skills
- ⊕ Quite cheap
- ⊖ Rough around the edges
- ⊖ Can't capture footage
- ⊖ Limited export options

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A well-judged set of features to fill the editing gap at a great price, but feels a little unrefined."

Norrkross Movie's layout is closer to a professional editing suite than iMovie.



>> FILE BROWSER

Raskin 1.0.1

$50 (£33) Inspired by a user interface pioneer, can Raskin be groundbreaking itself?

>> ON THE DISC
You can find all these programs on the disc.

CONTACTS

Developer: Raskin Software LLC
http://raskinformac.com/

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.3

PROS & CONS

- + Intuitive navigation
- + Utilises multitouch gestures
- − Scales poorly
- − Poor value and no Quick Look

VERDICT

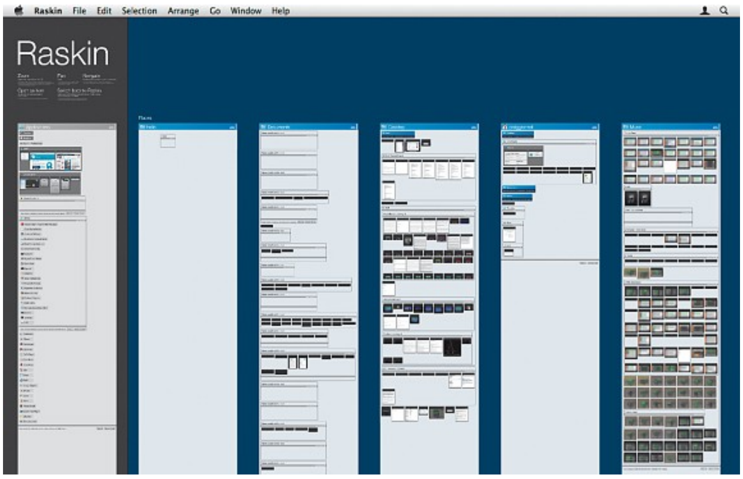
★★½☆☆

"An interesting concept, but it is overpriced and non-essential."

Raskin is a radical *Finder* alternative. Boasting a bold tag line of 'beyond desktop', the app perhaps ironically resembles a huge Mac OS X desktop in Icon view crossed with List view. The file hierarchy is flattened, as is file information, with each file displaying a name, icon, metadata and visual preview. Applications and open windows are also accessible, via the left-most area of *Raskin's* surface.

Navigation is *Raskin's* biggest plus. It capitalises on Mac trackpads, enabling you to pan across files and folders, and zoom in and out at will. In theory, this could enable users to access content more quickly than in the *Finder*, especially when working with image-oriented files. In reality, we're not sure about *Raskin's* scalability, since when we had a lot of files and folders open on its surface, everything became too cluttered for our liking. It's also possible to navigate *Raskin* using a keyboard, but doing so isn't much fun and feels heavy.

The main problem, though, with *Raskin* is we didn't feel more productive while using it. We certainly had fun zooming and panning about the place, but the app feels like an elaborate tech demo, and for all its claims about simplicity and intelligence, *Raskin* became awkward once we'd opened many items. Taking into account the price and a lack of Quick Look support, *Raskin* isn't an app we can recommend. **CG**



Raskin, zoomed out, showing a hard drive folder hierarchy in a 'flattened' form.

>> COMICS VIEWER

Simple Comic 1.7

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£DONATE dancingtortoise.com

If you have a bunch of comic book archive files (CBR or CBZ) lurking on your hard drive, this comic viewer is the perfect app for reading them. On launch, things don't look terribly promising, because the app's default setup is bonkers. However, turn off auto-scaling and get pages flowing the right way, and it's great. You can whizz through comics using icons or keyboard shortcuts, and there's a decent full-screen mode for when you want to block out everything apart from your favourite fantasy worlds. Just remember to donate (Simple Comic > Make a Donation) if you end up liking it as much as we do. **CG**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This is a first-rate comics viewer: configurable, efficient, stable and usable."

>> ALARM

Pester 1.1b10

£FREE http://sabi.net/nriley/

Amid modern-day distractions, it's all too easy to forget to do important things. While every Mac comes with *iCal*, the latest version makes adding alarms a bit fiddly. For one-off reminders, *Pester* is, with one major exception, a much better bet. The Set Alarm dialog offers plenty of options: a message, the alarm time and date, whether the alarm should repeat, and how the alarm should display and sound. A countdown to the next alarm is shown in the Dock, and, upon activation, alarms can be dismissed or snoozed. However, existing alarms cannot be edited, which is the only real drawback. **CG**

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Pester is an app well worth downloading. And it's flawless, bar the lack of alarm editing."

>> MUSIC PLAYER

Everplay 1.1.1

$20 (£13) snarbsoft.com

Everplay aims to cash in on *iTunes* being bloated. It syncs with your *iTunes* content, but is more efficient than Apple's app, providing a Cover Flow navigator and a list view for selected albums. The app is feature-rich: you get system-wide shortcuts, *Growl* notification and Last.fm support, along with an 'upcoming' menu that's editable on the fly. There's also a decent full-screen mode. Unfortunately, we had intermittent juddering playback during testing, and the playlist order was a bit random sometimes. On balance, *Ecoute* (*MacFormat 222*) is a better buy, despite *Everplay* having a better interface. **CG**

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Everplay looks the part, but problems became apparent during testing."

Issue 219
April 2010

Say hello to iPad
40 ways to improve a Mac
Cut the cost of buying a Mac
Stylise your snaps
On the disc
Curator 1.3, Captain FTP, Fun Booth 1 and more

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May 2010

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Do more in Snow Leopard
Aperture 3 reviewed
Macworld expo: the verdict
On the disc
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iPad Wi-Fi model reviewed
Get a free 3D desktop
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File Sheriff 1.4, ArtRage 2.5, Cake Shop 1 and more

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40 cool iLife features
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First steps in Aperture
iPad - the arts medium
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30 essential Mac apps
How to sync your life
One to One Apple training
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Learning with your Mac

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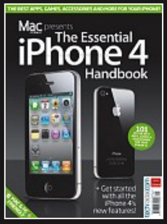
Has Apple lost the plot?
Cut-out Mac evangelist's guide
Six top flatbed scanners on test
Stream video from Mac to mobile
How to use the Bodega Mac store
Amplitube iRig guitar app on test

On the disc
Leech 1.1.4, MyMoney 1, DropDMG 2.8.6, top shareware and more

Why not also try these...



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>> REAL-TIME STRATEGY

StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£45 What's that? An epic online strategy game from the makers of Warcraft? Oh, go on then…

CONTACTS

Developer: Blizzard
www.blizzard.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8, 10.6.2 or later **Processor:** Intel **Video:** NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT, ATI Radeon X1600 or better **Hard disk space:** 12GB **RAM:** 2GB **Other:** Internet connection, 1024x720 minimum display

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Superb game design
- ⊕ Epic campaign mode
- ⊕ Accessible to all
- ⊕ Good achievements system
- ⊕ Magnificent multiplayer modes
- ⊖ Ludicrously macho

VERDICT

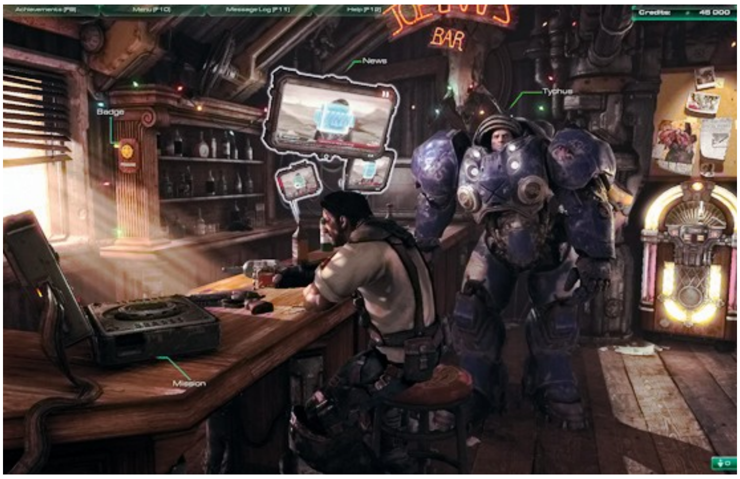
★★★★★

"Simply stunning. Epic in scale but effortlessly playable, Wings of Liberty is a major event in gaming. Don't miss it."

Seven years in the making and we end up with this rubbish… just kidding. *StarCraft II Wings of Liberty* is a triumph. God knows what the development costs were, but frankly it's worth every cent.

Taking up the story where the previous *StarCraft* expansion left off, *Wings of Liberty* follows the adventures of Jim Raynor, a rebel leader who is determined to overthrow the Terran Dominion ruled by Emperor Mengsk. Complicating the picture are two other factions, the Zerg and the Protoss.

For the benefit of the *StarCraft* newbie, the core gameplay mechanic involves both resource management and combat, but if the term 'resource management' sends a shiver down your spine, don't panic. In *StarCraft II* the colony-building duties are straightforward, fun, and very much a means to an end – i.e. a great big fight.



That's Jim Raynor and his rather overdressed buddy Tychus, enjoying a drink.

Working your way up

You begin with a base and a handful of SCVs (we'll just refer to the Terran unit names), which you assign to mineral- and gas-collecting duties. Once you've built up sufficient raw materials, the SCVs can start building barracks, supply depots and the like, and begin to generate new units. As you progress, so you can access more sophisticated hardware and units, and it's the differences between these units that makes combat in *StarCraft II* such an immense delight.

Ranging from infantry to tanks and aircrafts, each faction has similar unit types, but there aren't precise equivalents so mastering each race's forces requires a different skill set. The Terrans, for example, rely on fighting in numbers, using infantry, siege tanks and battlecruisers, while also using bunkers to hold out defensively. Theirs is a military solution. The Protoss are more technologically advanced so rely on surprise psionic attacks and ranged warfare using their fleet of ships. The Zerg rely on overwhelming the enemy with brutality.

> *"The single-player campaign is a truly epic experience featuring fleshed-out characters, exotic locations and an involving plot…"*

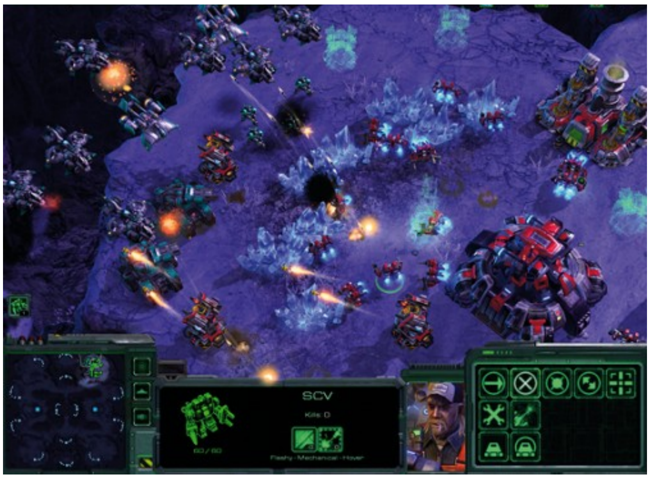
Most players will tell you *StarCraft* is all about playing online and indeed that is where the game's longevity lies. But the single player campaign is a truly epic experience featuring fully fleshed-out characters, exotic locations and an involving plot. The individual scenarios are superbly designed, offering a diversity of challenges ranging from search-and-destroy missions, large-scale battles and the occasional survival scenario.

The single-player campaign is accessible enough to be played by gamers of any skill level or ability. This is achieved first by the intuitive control mechanisms, and second through the use of flexible difficulty settings. Struggle with a particular level, and you can drop the difficulty a notch. Find a level too easy and you can bump it back up again. Brilliant.

And, so to the multiplayer options. Playing as any of three available factions, you can dive straight into a 1v1 game that's selected to match your current abilities, you can opt to join a cooperative game in which you team up with other players to take on AI-controlled factions (enjoying a spot of voice chat as you go), and you can also create a party, inviting friends to join you for a more intimate ongoing *StarCraft* experience.

Just in case there's any doubt, we like *StarCraft II*… a lot. The RTS genre can be intimidating to more casual gamers, but *Wings of Liberty* pulls off the feat of being entirely accessible to newbies and richly satisfying to hardcore gamers. It's a triumph of considerate game design. **AD**

The Terrans are under siege. Quick, build more bunkers.



POINT & CLICK ADVENTURE

The Legend of Crystal Valley

$7 (£4.50) An adventure like no other…

CONTACTS

Developer: Cateia Games
www.bigfishgames.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.4 **Processor:** 800Mhz CPU **RAM:** 256MB
Hard disk space: 552MB

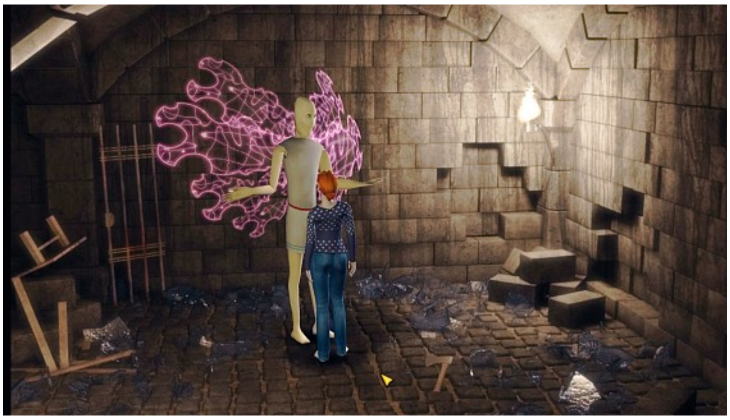
PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Fantastic locations
- ⊕ An odd but gripping story
- ⊕ Weird array of characters
- ⊖ Clunky writing

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A game that adds up to more than the sum of its weird, disjointed parts."



It looks like an angel, but the lack of facial features is kind of creeping us out slightly.

This game, created by a modest team of Croatian coders, lacks the niceties of bigger budget games. But even so, it keeps plugging away until you have no option but to fall for its amateurish charms.

You play the part of a girl whose father has mysteriously disappeared, and so she embarks on a quest to find him; a quest that leads to alternate realities and a cast of bizarre creatures. However, the writing is a little odd and the plot is an awkward mish-mash or traditional folklore, sci-fi, mundane everyday folk and mythical creatures. Along the way you'll meet dwarfs, giants, dragons, villagers and fishermen. You'll also learn spells to shrink yourself and activate telekinetic powers. And you'll discover why your father disappeared, why he isn't quite the man you thought he was, and how he also once visited this world full of magical creatures, robots and portals. It's a mixed old bag of oddities.

Collecting and combining objects is handled well, but conversations with characters can lead to repetition and backtracking. Visually things are patchy too. Some locations are breathtaking, but the poorly designed creatures and stiff animation are not.

So it's a hotch-potch of good and bad. But give it 30 minutes and the plot will grip you, the characters will charm you and the dialogue will simultaneously amuse and puzzle you.

In short, this unconventional, slightly scruffy and inexpensive adventure will provoke as many quizzically raised eyebrows as it will smiles. But come the end credits, you'll be glad you spent some time in Crystal Valley. **AD**

>> POINT & CLICK ADVENTURE

Sam & Max: The Devil's Playhouse

$35 (£22) The odd antics continue

CONTACTS

Developer: Tell Tale Games
www.telltalegames.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo **Other:** Not recommended for Macs with integrated graphics

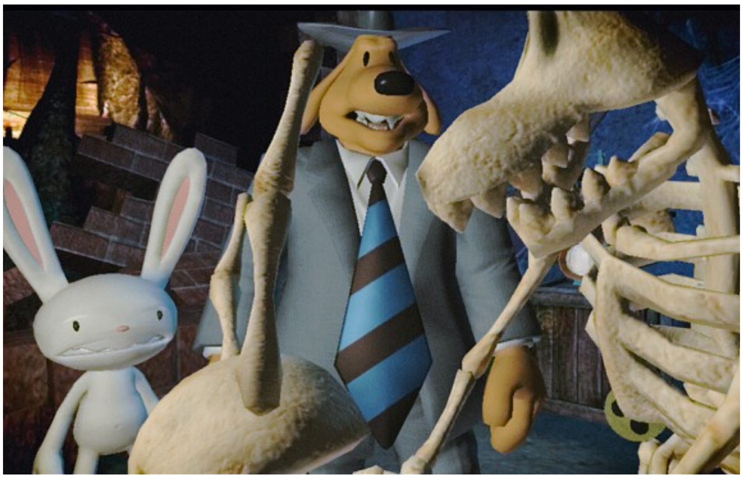
PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Legendary characters
- ⊕ Smart stylised graphics
- ⊕ Weird and wonderful storylines
- ⊖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Slick, stylish and funny, This is a classic Sam & Max adventure…"



Freelance police Sam and Max make a gruesome and perplexing discovery.

This is the third set of episodic adventures featuring the detective dog and his rabbit sidekick. It comprises five episodes, each with its own distinct flavour but all fitting into a single narrative arc.

Depending on the particular chapter and episode you're playing, the gameplay can differ. So, for example, one set of circumstances will require you to use rhinoplasty on Max in order to turn him into a bazooka, while at another point you need to dial up contacts in order to teleport to their locations.

Most adventures tend to rely on a puzzle mechanism whereby objects are collected, combined in various ways and employed to find a solution. The same is true of *Sam & Max*, but only up to a point. The puzzles here are less demanding and mostly serve just to change the narrative flow.

We could criticise the simple and often obvious nature of the puzzles – in fact it's hard not to solve some of them given the amount of prompting provided – but that would be missing the point. *Sam & Max: The Devil's Playhouse* is less about engaging in a battle of wits with the developer and more about watching a story unfold.

The Devil's Playhouse is light on challenge but heavy on wit, atmosphere and fun. If your budget can stretch to it, it's well worth spending some time in the company of *Sam & Max*. **AD**

>iPHONE >iPAD >iPOD TOUCH

Apps

>> WELCOME
To our new section dedicated to all things iPhone, iPad and iPod touch related. The first three pages are for the iPhone and iPod touch, while the last two pages are iPad only.

>> iPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera+

FREE Take better photos without upgrading your hardware

The *Camera* app that comes on the iPhone by default is, frankly, a bit rubbish. Oh, the camera's fine, and the app can take some decent shots, but it doesn't offer you much creative control. This is where *Camera+* excels.

The app has two parts: one for taking photos and one for editing them. The 'taking' bit is deceptively simple; by default, it overlays a Rule of Thirds grid to help you compose better shots, and you can activate an anti-vibration more that, when triggered, automatically takes a photo only when the camera is held still. Better still, while the default *Camera* app enables you to touch on an area to set both focus and exposure, *Camera+* lets you touch with two fingers to set the focus and exposure points independently. Flash modes are supported, and you can even turn the flash just to 'on', transforming your iPhone into a handy torch.

> *"Tap a clip to bring up handles that you can use to trim it, and double-tap to add a title or remove audio from a clip"*

9
Take photos
Lightbox
Camera+
MENU

The range of effects you can apply in the editing mode is broad and split into three categories for easy navigation. Better still, the effects are actually of a very high quality (let's not forget, this is on a smartphone). We'd still like proper manual control or even just an opacity slider, though.

Soon after we'd reviewed *Camera+* it mysteriously disappeared from the App Store. A quick investigation revealed that it had fallen foul of some of Apple's more indiosyncratic App Store policies, despite having previously been accepted.

A hidden feature enabled you to use the iPhone's volume buttons as a camera shutter button. This facility could be activated simply by visiting a website. We expect that the app will be back on the Store by the time you're reading this – after the hidden feature has been removed completely, of course. **CP**

PROS & CONS

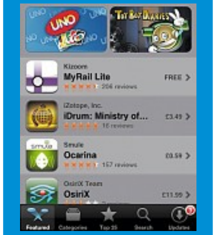
- ⊕ Adds useful features
- ⊕ Convincing, fun effects
- ⊖ Beautiful design
- ⊖ A bit slow

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Despite drawbacks, it trumps Apple's Camera app."

DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

5 ESSENTIAL APPS

Find out our favourites

1. Reeder
£1.79 RSS reader; iPad edition exists

2. Flipboard
£FREE Innovative personal mag for iPad

3. Twitter for iPhone
£FREE The rebranded *Tweetie* goes free

4. Instapaper Pro
£2.99 Save articles to read when you're offline

5. BBC News
£FREE iPad edition is reviewed this issue

5 GREAT GAMES

Our top time-wasters

1. Strategery
£1.19 Yes, we are still a little obsessed!

2. The Warlock of Firetop Mountain
£1.79 Old skool RPG

3. Guitar Hero
£1.79 The console classic arrives for iOS!

4. Angry Birds
59p Aim and fire birds from a catapult

5. Orba
59p Like *Bejeweled*, only better!

>> iPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

hipstamatic

£1.19/$1.99 Create retro photos

Hipstamatic
160
KAIMAL LENS 50mm 1:14.13.5F
MADE IN INDIA MARK II
Kaimal Mark II

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Charming results
- ⊕ Great idea
- ⊖ Irritatingly slow
- ⊖ Need to buy more effects

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Neat nostalgia trip for photographers, but can be a slouch."

While *Camera+* has a few effects that do a credible job of giving your photos the low-fi hipster look, if you're really going to go for it then you're going to need to call in the big guns. In this case, *Hipstamatic*.

The app is dedicated to the fun of recreating plastic toy cameras of the past. You can mix and match between a wide range of lenses, flash effects and film stock – a few are included, though you can buy more inside the app itself – to create low-fi photos that look terrific. For the £1.19 entry price you get the base model, the Hipstamatic 150, which includes the John S, Jimmy and Kaimal Lenses, as well as Blanko Ina's 1969, and Kodot Verichrome film and two standard flases. Extra lenses, films and flashses start at 59p a pop.

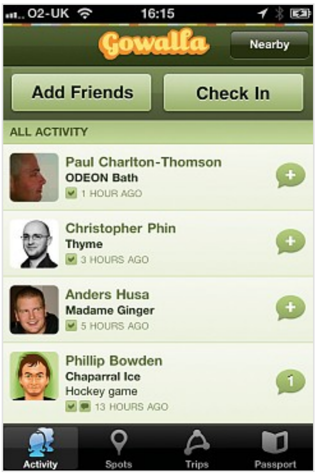
The interface *Hipstamatic* uses is well worth a mention, since it's lovely. Rather than choosing from a boring list of options, you swap lenses by swiping your finger horizontally over the actual lense of the camera (shown in the picture above). Tapping on the lens itself will give you information about the type of effects it can generate and some tips on its use. The same swiping process works for your film and flash choices as well. All the photos you take can be preivewed in the app, but appear at full size in your *Photos* app.

The hipster aesthetic and mindset might get to you after a while – the processing time for pictures seems artificially long, just for show, and you can't edit normal photos that you've already taken (although an update to the app is planned that will allow this), but there's no doubt it's a lovely, fun idea. All the pictures you take have a artistic, quirky and fun character. **GB**

>> SOCIAL NETWORKING

Gowalla

FREE Where have you been?



Paul Charlton-Thomson
ODEON Bath
1 HOUR AGO

Christopher Phin
Thyme
3 HOURS AGO

Anders Husa
Madame Ginger
5 HOURS AGO

Phillip Bowden
Chaparral Ice
Hockey game
13 HOURS AGO

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Less populated with spots and less famous, but a nicer service than foursuare."

The basic premise of *Gowalla* is that, as you travel around, you virtually check in at locations you stop at. It's a bit of a laborious process, to be sure, but it quickly becomes quite fun. For starters, there's a gaming element, with leaderboards, items and more, and some savvy small businesses are looking at their locations' leaderboards and offering rewards and incentives to regular customers. You can leave tips and comments for other users, and upload photos associated with each location. The gaming element continues with the idea of 'trips', the modern descendents of a pub crawl. You can enable optional Push notifications on a per-person basis, but as always, we recommend only adding real friends! **CP**

>> SOCIAL NETWORKING

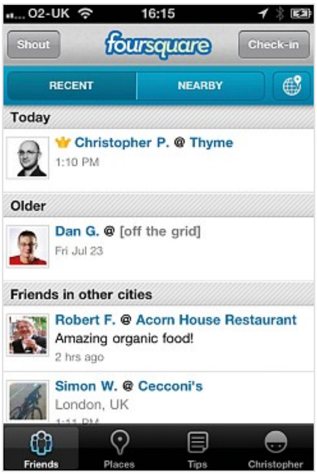
foursquare

FREE Find new ways to explore your city

Like *Gowalla, foursquare* enables you to check in at locations and share your movements with friends. And like *Gowalla*, it might also appear to be utterly without a point. The main thing in *foursquare*'s favour is that it has more momentum than its rival, and the gaming model's fun, but the app's not that pleasant to use.

(Your reviewer got a severe talking-to when he took the 'mayorship' – something you get for being the person who checks in most at a venue – from a colleague; be warned!)

As with other social services, however, it really only gets to be fun when your friends are using it too. On balance we found *Gowalla* to be the superior app. **CP**



Today

Christopher P. @ Thyme
1:10 PM

Older

Dan G. @ [off the grid]
Fri Jul 23

Friends in other cities

Robert F. @ Acorn House Restaurant
Amazing organic food!
2 hrs ago

Simon W. @ Cecconi's
London, UK

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A more popular service, but not as good as Gowalla; it's VHS and Betamax all over again!"

>>PUZZLE

Osmos

£1.79 In the words of Lily Allen, you are a Weapon of Mass Consumption

PROS & CONS

- + Cosmically beautiful
- + Ambient soundtrack
- + Varied challenges
- − Can be frustratingly tough

VERDICT

★★★★★

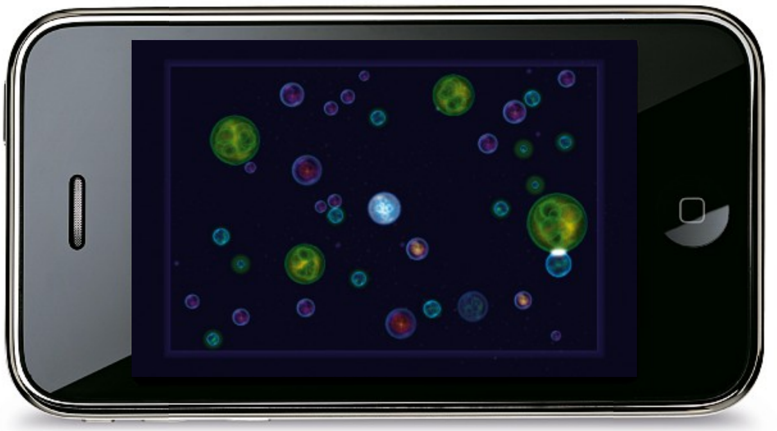
"An experience in itself, Osmos is a delight to play."

Osmos is a new entry in the small but growing genre of organism games. Like the early stages of *Spore* and the Mac game *Tasty Planet*, the idea here is to move your organism (or mote) around the play area absorbing other motes in order to grow. You can absorb only motes smaller than yourself; touch one larger than you and it'll absorb you. Game over.

In order to move you have to fire off little bits of your mote to achieve opposite thrust. In doing so you have to deal with momentum and be careful not to overuse this means of propulsion or your mote will end up very small again and vulnerable to attack.

You'll encounter motes of varying types, some of which repel you, others having a gravitational effect – all of which radically change the challenge and the approach required to ensure victory in mote world.

Osmos is fascinating and frustrating in just the right measures, and with its cool visuals and ambient soundtrack, it's an experience not to be missed. **AD**



Gobble up all the smaller motes. Those green sentient motes are out to get you though.

>>STRATEGY

Sim City Deluxe

£3.99 EA gives its city sim a minor revamp

PROS & CONS

- + Massive and detailed
- + Satisfying scenarios
- − Small screen problems
- − It's a power-hungry brute

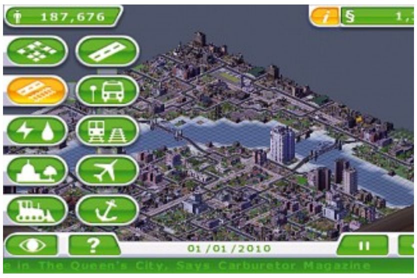
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Still a squeeze on the iPhone, but it's just so playable!"

One thing's for sure: it's testament to the compelling nature of the gameplay that *SimCity* – an undertaking whose scale surely requires it to be viewed on as large a screen as possible – was received so warmly on the iPhone. Despite the unwieldiness of what was essentially a straight port of *SimCity 3000*, iPhone gamers still, largely, enjoyed the experience.

This deluxe version also suffers from being a big game on a small device, but with added viewing options and tweaked controls it's a lot less finicky than before. And crucially, there are now pre-defined scenarios included, which make the game far more appealing to those who like to play something that actually has a point. **AD**



This scenario has you preparing a large city for the 2012 World Games. Familiar?

>>PUZZLE

Gravity Block

59p If gravity is weighing you down, change it

PROS & CONS

- + Simple premise
- + Clever level design
- + Nice physics
- − Crude looks

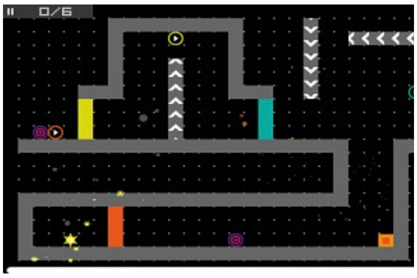
VERDICT

★★★★★

"A masterpiece of minimalist game design. We love it."

The iPhone is proving to be the perfect platform for physics games and *Gravity Block* is a great example. It's not pretty, but what it lacks in cosmetic appeal it makes up for in simple, brain-bruising fun.

The idea is to guide a block from the start to the finish, past hazards, through switch-activated doors, across conveyor belts and through portals by changing the direction of gravity. Get it wrong and you are sent back to the start of the level. However, the aim is not only to finish the level, but also achieve par by switching gravity as few times as possible. It's a unique puzzler that tests forward thinking and reflexes at the same time. As such, it's a simple and engrossing concept that just works. **AD**



You are the orange block, the star is your goal. Your only tool is gravity.

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AND MUCH MORE!
99 SNOW LEOPARD SECRETS
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>> iPAD PDF ANNOTATOR

iAnnotate

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£5.99 PDF scribbling never looked so good

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Neat configurable interface
- ⊕ Annotations aplenty
- ⊕ Bundle of transfer options
- ⊕ Secure lockdown mode

VERDICT

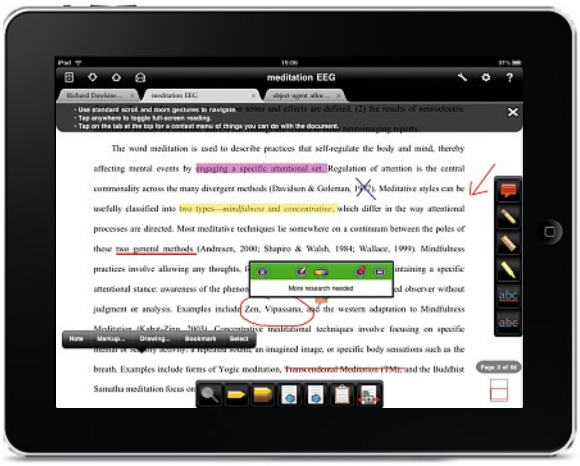
★★★★★

"iAnnotate makes PDF notation a cinch on the iPad."

Competent document readers aren't hard to come by on the iPad – *GoodReader*, for example – but few let you annotate PDFs on the fly in the quick and efficient manner associated with OS X Leopard's *Preview*.

iAnnotate claims to do just that. Fire it up and an uncluttered tabbed interface enables you to work on multiple PDFs at once. A variety of handy tips drop down to get you started, pointing out a range of easy PDF transfer options, such as transfers via email, *iTunes* sync, or web-based browsing directly to PDF links. Dropbox integration is also well realised, while syncing of large libraries via the free desktop companion app is a quick and simple solution.

With a few files imported, you can keyword-search your catalogue and keep it organised using new, read, unread and annotated tabs. Open up a PDF and a neat customisable overlay provides page view and navigation buttons, as well as tools to highlight and underline text, save bookmarks, add notes and create free-form drawings, all of which are integrated into the document. Clicking on the page offers further markup options, including the fabled copy and paste.



iAnnotate offers all the tools for marking up a science journal, for example.

Collating your notes is simplified by the facility to separately export marked-up text and annotations via email, while VGA dock connector support means you can even display your PDFs on an external projector and annotate in front of an audience. However, if the content is sensitive, app-wide password-protection is also at your disposal.

The developers at Aji have responded to user feedback generated from the first release and have made mobile integrated PDF editing a joy to undertake. As such, this latest version of *iAnnotate* could well tip the balance in favour of making the iPad an essential companion for students and research professionals alike. **TH**

>> iPAD NEWS APP

BBC News

FREE This is the news. In iPad app form

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Live TV news
- ⊕ Nicely customisable
- ⊕ Video clips play
- ⊖ No iPlayer links

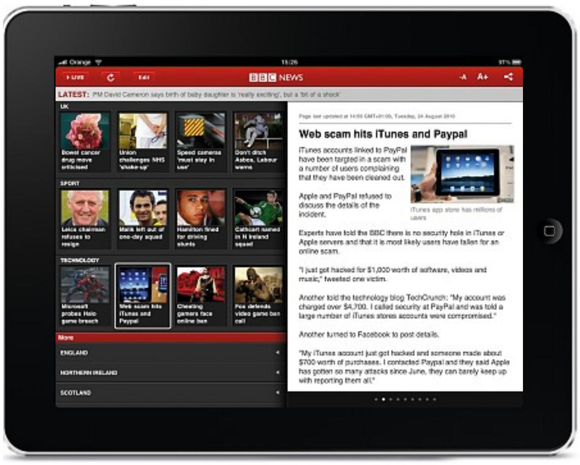
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"No huge surprises, but a great app for getting a news fix."

The BBC's news app was delayed on the UK App Store (despite being available on the US store) because of annoying BBC Trust investigations, but now it's finally been released we can put all that behind us and enjoy what is undoubtedly the best news app for the iPad. The app is simply another way of accessing the great content from the BBC news website, but it's much easier to use than the website on an iPad. And (most importantly) unlike the website, the video clips attached to each story actually play on an iPad.

The app itself has a fairly straightforward interface, without too many bells and whistles, and you can do pretty much everything you need to, such as customise it to include the types of stories you're interested in, post links to Twitter and Facebook, switch between portrait and landscape mode and change the size of the text to make it easier to read. An added bonus is the ability to watch the BBC News 24 channel live. As with all the video options, it fills the iPad's entire screen and playback is smooth, but not as high resolution as the iPlayer, plus video only works over a Wi-Fi connection, so you can't watch it on the go with 3G. Some link to the BBC iPlayer from within the app would have been a particularly nice touch. **GB**



The BBC News app finally makes an appearence on the UK App Store.

>> iPAD ONLINE SOCIAL GAME

We Farm

£FREE + IN-APP PURCHASES A guilt-free way to sow your seeds online

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Costs nothing (initially)
- ⊕ Loads of items to buy
- ⊖ Expensive in-app purchases
- ⊖ Interaction is poor

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"It has its limitations but it's a fun, friendly and game."

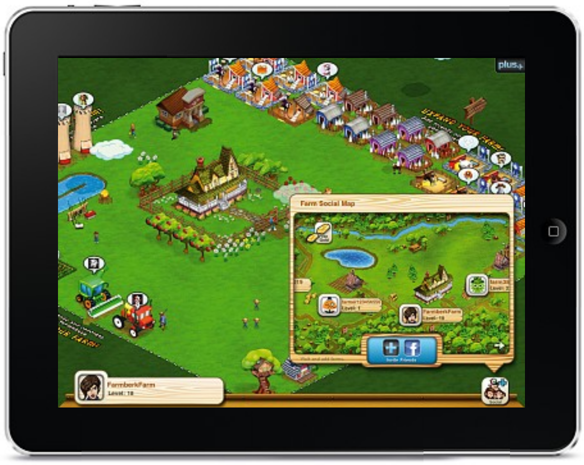
This is a casual game, the point of which is to dip in and out, tinkering about with it and showing off all your achievements with other farm owners online.

You start with a patch of land that's bare save for a ramshackle house, and from there it's up to you to use the available tools to build up a thriving business. Lay down a couple of plots and start growing corn, once it has grown you harvest it, sell it and use the money to buy more gardens.

As you make more money and level up, you can unlock additional items or build coops to raise birds, pens for raising livestock, milking sheds, barns and more. In fact, building and upgrading is the real payoff of success as you can improve your farm and its surroundings to an impressive degree, ending up with a massive agricultural operation.

And that's where the online stuff comes in. You can invite friends to join you in the fun. There are a couple of problems though. The social aspects aren't as interactive as they could be, communication being limited to just comparing stuff. Even the shared activities are never entered into – a couple of minigames would have been nice. Also, if you want more units of Gro to speed up your progress, you have to buy it with real money and it costs a fortune.

And finally, there's a bit too much tending to be done, especially when planting and harvesting faster growing crops. It's not a game you can leave alone for several hours without loads of stuff dying and your farming ending up in a right old state, which runs counter to the casual premise of the whole thing.



Visiting other people's farms can often lead to agricultural envy.

Even so, *We Farm* is irritatingly moreish. Your farm looks great, it can be endlessly tweaked and messed about with, socialising – while limited – is undeniably enjoyable and, of course, it's free to play. You'd be daft not to try *We Farm*, just don't expect too much from it. **AD**

>> iPAD PUZZLE GAME

Master of Alchemy

£1.79 Can the secrets of alchemy finally be revealed? Er, no

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Slick presentation
- ⊕ Clever puzzle design
- ⊕ 60 puzzles to solve
- ⊖ Not much replay value

VERDICT

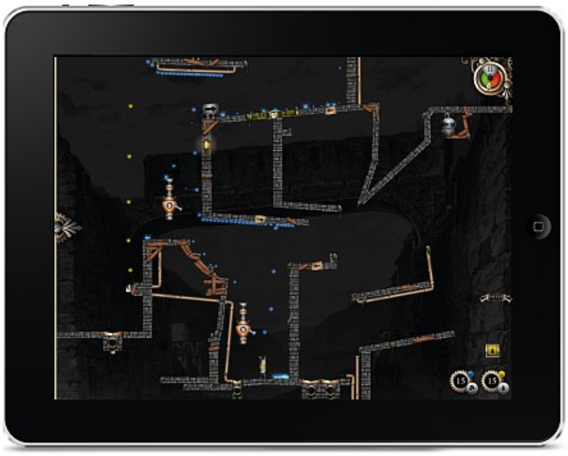
★★★★☆

"A rewarding puzzler that doesn't quite do what it says on the tin."

Alchemy's a fickle thing. Adding stuff together to make other stuff is generally a doddle. A bit of oxygen here, a dash of hydrogen there… water. Chuck some copper and zinc together and you have brass. Combine cocoa, flour, butter, eggs and sugar, and a chocolate brownie appears. Turning base metals into gold, though? Not so simple. Despite all the pseudo-mystical, alchemical goings-on in the game's back-story, This is, at heart, a physics puzzler, which features the manipulation of solids, liquids and gases.

The idea is to funnel the elements to their relevant receptacles, transforming them into various states, according to their properties.

For example, you might start with a green liquid, so you use wood to create a platform that guides it along. Next you use an evaporating device to turn it into a gas, then a condenser collects the gas, turns it back into a liquid and deposits it at the collection point.

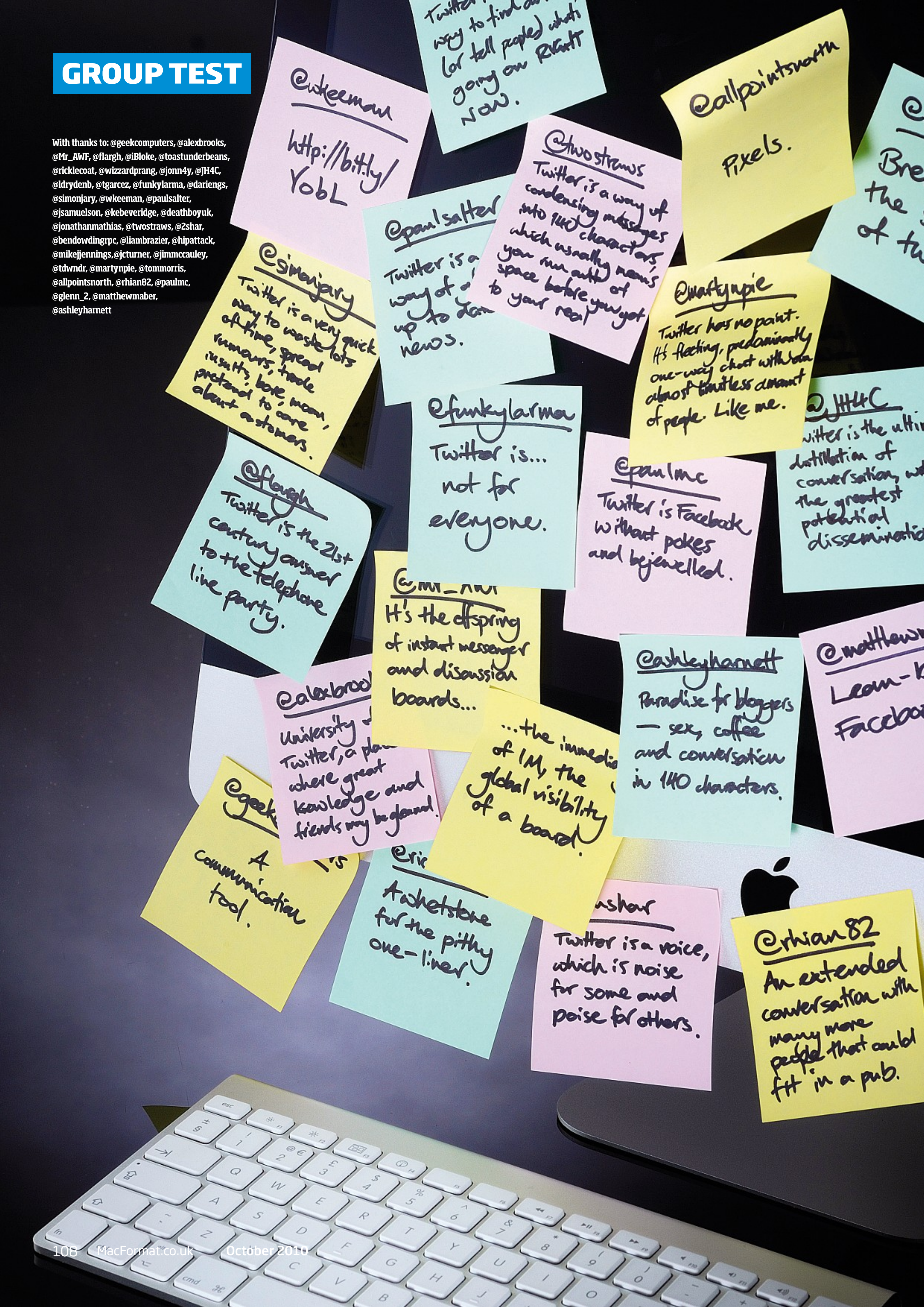


Are you a master of alchemy or just someone who's good at cleaning up?

However, things get complicated when more than one type of matter is introduced and the tools at your disposal get more complex too.

It's clever stuff and what seems like a rather repetitive activity during the first few levels soon evolves into a highly rewarding puzzle-solving experience. **AD**

With thanks to: @geekcomputers, @alexbrooks, @Mr_AWF, @flargh, @iBloke, @toastunderbeans, @ricklecoat, @wizzardprang, @jonn4y, @JH4C, @ldrydenb, @tgarcez, @funkylarma, @dariengs, @simonjary, @wkeeman, @paulsalter, @jsamuelson, @kebeveridge, @deathboyuk, @jonathanmathias, @twostraws, @2shar, @bendowdingrpc, @liambrazier, @hipattack, @mikejjennings,@jcturner, @jimmccauley, @tdwndr, @martynpie, @tommorris, @allpointsnorth, @rhian82, @paulmc, @glenn_2, @matthewmaber, @ashleyharnett



way to find ou
(or tell people) what's
going on RIGHT
NOW.

@wkeeman
http://bit.ly/YobL

@allpointsnorth
Pixels.

@twostraws
Twitter is a way of condensing messages into 140 characters, which usually means you run out of space before you get to your real

@paulsalter
Twitter is a way of up to date news.

@simonjary
Twitter is a very quick way to waste lots of time, spread rumours, trade insults, bore mum, pretend to care about customers.

@martynpie
Twitter has no point. It's fleeting, predominantly one-way chat with an almost limitless amount of people. Like me.

@funkylarma
Twitter is... not for everyone.

@JH4C
witter is the ulti
distillation of
conversation, w
the greatest
potential
disseminatio

@flargh
Twitter is the 21st century answer to the telephone line party.

@paulmc
Twitter is Facebook without pokes and bejewelled.

It's the offspring of instant messenger and discussion boards...

...the immedi of IM, the global visibility of a board.

@alexbrool
University of Twitter, a pla where great kowledge and friends may be gleaned.

@ashleyharnett
Paradise for bloggers — sex, coffee and conversation in 140 characters.

@matthew
Learn-k
Facebo

@geek
A communication tool.

A whetstone for the pithy one-liner.

shar
Twitter is a voice, which is noise for some and poise for others.

@rhian82
An extended conversation with many more people that could fit in a pub.

Twitter clients

Words: **Craig Grannell**
Photography by: **Simon Lees**

ON THE DISC
Find all these Twitter apps on the disc!

Addicted to Twitter, but want to find a better way to use it? We find out which is the best Mac Twitter client

Twitter is a social networking and microblogging service based around 'tweets' (140-character messages). Although dismissed by many as pointless, dedicated Twitter users swear by the service, for various reasons. Many celebrities have accounts, as do news organisations – news and gossip often spreads on Twitter long before it reaches websites. It's also a democratised service: tweets are visible to all by default, but you can hide yours if you wish. You receive tweets from Twitter users whose timelines you subscribe to – a process simply known as 'following' – and people can subscribe to your timeline, becoming your 'followers'. Following can be reciprocal or not: it's entirely up to you. Also, the brevity of messages means that users are forced to be concise, making Twitter a great way to send and receive information in double-quick time.

Another big advantage of Twitter is that while you can use the website, there are also dozens of Twitter clients that provide a streamlined way to use the service. Here we've rounded up six of the most popular. While we conclude over the page which of them is, in our opinion, the best available, if you disagree, all you need to do to switch clients is launch a different application and add your login details.

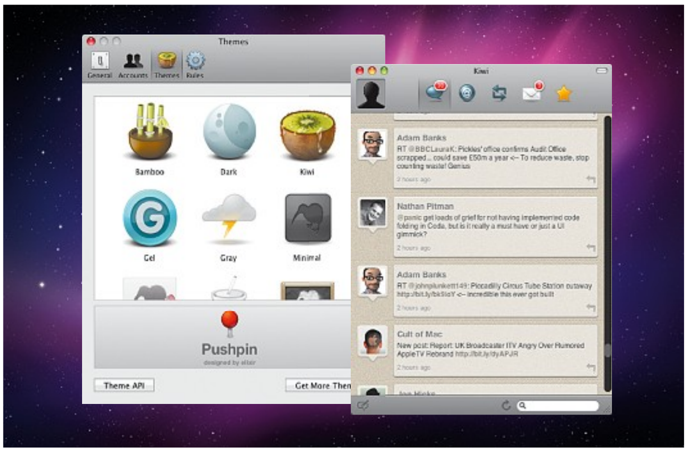
> *"Users are forced to be concise, making Twitter a great way to send and receive info in double-quick time"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Some multi-service clients bundle Twitter support, including the depicted and impressive *Socialite* (**http://realmacsoftware.com/socialite**) and blogging tool *Blogo* (**http://drinkbrainjuice.com**).

TWITTER CLIENTS / At a glance

	Echofon	Kiwi	Nambu	TweetDeck	Tweetie	Twitterrific
Price	Free with ads/$20	Free (two accounts)/$10	Free	Free	Free	Free with ads/$15
Manufacturer	naan studio	YourHead Software	The Nambu Network	TweetDeck	atebits	The Iconfactory
Website	echofon.com	kiwi-app.net	nambu.com	tweetdeck.com	atebits.com	iconfactory.com
Multiple accounts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not simultaneously
Post window	Single	Multiple	Single	Single	Multiple	Single
Notifications	Menu/dock/Growl	Menu/dock/Growl	Menu/dock/Growl/audio	Floating window/audio	Menu/dock/Growl	Audio/Growl
Conversation view	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Saved searches	Yes (no alerts)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No



Adam Banks
RT @BBCLauraK: Pickles' office confirms Audit Office scrapped... could save £50m a year <-- To reduce waste, stop counting waste! Genius

Nathan Pitman
@panic get loads of grief for not having implemented code folding in Coda, but is it really a must have or just a UI gimmick?
2 hours ago

Adam Banks
RT @johnplunkett149: Piccadilly Circus Tube Station cutaway http://bit.ly/bkSIoY <-- incredible this ever got built
2 hours ago

Cult of Mac
New post: Report: UK Broadcaster ITV Angry Over Rumored AppleTV Rebrand http://bit.ly/dyAPJR
2 hours ago

If you're not keen on Kiwi's looks, there's nothing to stop you from changing its theme.

»TEST ONE

General use

Is the app usable and are important features available?

TweetDeck's Adobe AIR cross-platform origins result in a non-Mac-like and fiddly but powerful client, which enables you to define columns of varying content types. Conversely, *Twitterrific* is Mac-like but basic – it resembles a palette and only enables access to one account at a time, and so it's best suited to sporadic use. *Nambu* looks good in screen grabs, but we found its icon-heavy interface overwhelming and a little buggy.

The other apps are broadly similar and usable. Switching between accounts is simple, and shortcuts enable fast access to important commands. Visually, *Kiwi* edges it due to theme support, but *Echofon*'s minimalism and myriad keyboard shortcuts are welcome, even if its occasional lack of refresh on account switching and single post-window aren't; by contrast, *Kiwi* and *Tweetie* offer independent windows for posting. Elsewhere, *Kiwi* gains points for rule definition capabilities and displaying images inline.

»TEST RESULTS

Echofon	★★★★★
Kiwi	★★★★★
Nambu	★★☆☆☆
TweetDeck	★★★☆☆
Tweetie	★★★★★
Twitterrific	★★★☆☆

»TEST TWO

Posting tweets

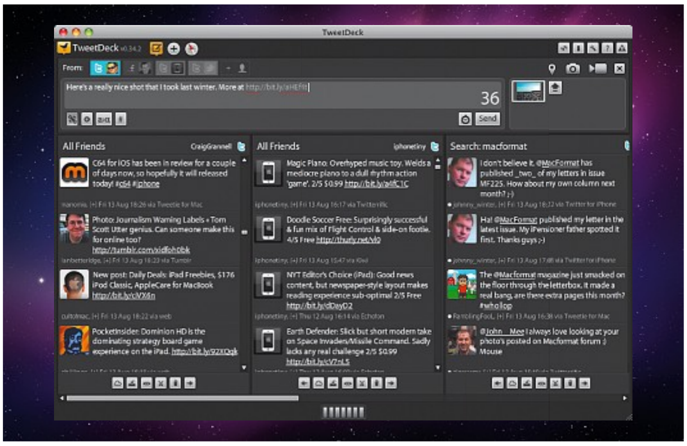
How easy is it to post tweets and attachments?

Our requirements: posting to any signed-in account; a live character count; dragging images from *Finder* for upload; optional shortening of links. *Twitterrific* mostly failed, offering no assistance regarding images and links. *Nambu* also fell short – images can be added but not dragged from *Finder*. *Kiwi* disappointed a little. Link shrinking is slow, and we found *Kiwi* sometimes posted to an account other than that selected in its post window.

Echofon impressed though. Images are shown as thumbs, which can be previewed via Quick Look, and you can post screen grabs or *iTunes* songs. *Tweetie*'s post window is similar, and can be accessed via a system-wide hotkey. But *TweetDeck* is posting champion: you can post to multiple accounts at once, and the app has geo-location support and tweet scheduling. It's complex, though. Also, *TweetDeck* and *Echofon* don't have separate post windows, so no working on multiple tweets.

»TEST RESULTS

Echofon	★★★★☆
Kiwi	★★★☆☆
Nambu	★★☆☆☆
TweetDeck	★★★★★
Tweetie	★★★★☆
Twitterrific	★☆☆☆☆



Here's a really nice shot that I took last winter. More at http://bit.ly/aHEftt

C64 for iOS has been in review for a couple of days now, so hopefully it will released today! #c64 #iphone

Photo: Journalism Warning Labels « Tom Scott: Utter genius. Can someone make this for online too? http://tumblr.com/xidfoh0bk

New post: Daily Deals: iPad Freebies, $176 iPod Classic, AppleCare for Macbook http://bit.ly/ciVX6n

PocketInsider: Dominion HD is the dominating strategy board game experience on the iPad.

Magic Piano: Overhyped music toy. Welds a mediocre piano to a dull rhythm action 'game'. 2/5 $0.99 http://bit.ly/a4fC1C

Doodle Soccer Free: Surprisingly successful & fun mix of Flight Control & side-on footie. 4/5 Free http://thurly.net/vl0

NYT Editor's Choice (iPad): Good news content, but newspaper-style layout makes reading experience sub-optimal 2/5 Free http://bit.ly/dDayD2

Earth Defender: Slick but short modern take on Space Invaders/Missile Command. Sadly lacks any real challenge 2/5 $0.99 http://bit.ly/cV7nL5

I don't believe it. @MacFormat has published _two_ of my letters in issue MF225. How about my own column next month? ;-)

Ha! @MacFormat published my letter in the latest issue. My iPensioner father spotted it first. Thanks guys ;-)

The @Macformat magazine just smacked on the floor through the letterbox. It made a real bang, are there extra pages this month? #wholop

@John__Mee I always love looking at your photo's posted on Macformat forum :) Mouse

TweetDeck offers many posting options, but its interface can get a little complex.

»TWEETS ON THE GO / Clients for iPhone, iPod touch and iPad

If you think there are a lot of Twitter apps for the Mac, the sheer number available for iOS will blow your mind. At the time of writing, the official *Twitter* app is the one we most regularly return to for iPhone and iPod touch. The app is fast, dependable, efficient, relatively feature-rich and free.

Elsewhere, *Echofon Pro* (£2.99) is good if you want to sync tweets across devices and your Mac. *Twittelator Pro* (£2.99) and *Osfoora* (£1.79) are also worth a look if the official app and *Echofon* don't do it for you. On the iPad, most of the Twitter apps are less mature, but they're catching up fast. *Twittelator for iPad* (£2.99) and *Osfoora HD* (£2.39) are both feature-rich, although the latter's interface is a bit overwhelming and the former wastes a lot of screen space. The depicted *Twitterrific* (free for one account, or £2.99 for multiple accounts) is simpler, but efficient and superior to the Mac version; the app is also universal, so it'll work on all your devices. *Echofon Pro* also happens to be a universal app, and while its iPad interface is very plain, it's extremely usable.

craiggrannell
All Tweets
All Tweets
Mentions
Messages
Favorites
Search Twitter
macformat
Trends
Conversation
Matt Legend Gemmell
Adam Banks
Conversation Complete

>> TEST THREE

Having chats

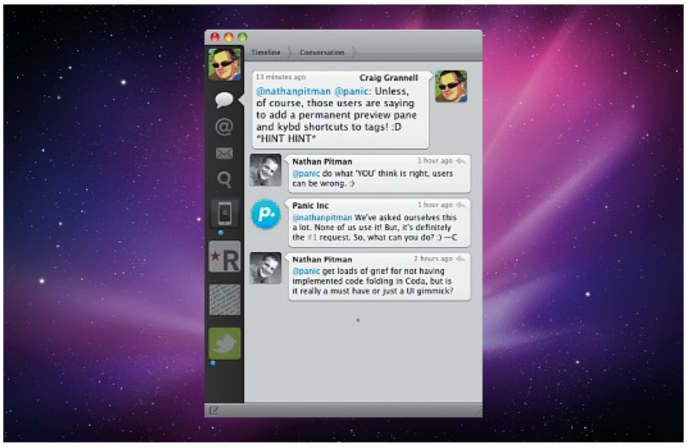
How about thread conversations and direct messages?

People use Twitter for quick-fire conversation, both in public and in private via direct messages (which can be sent to anyone following you). *Twitterrific* does neither (unlike the iOS version), but the other apps all enable you to view public conversation threads. In *TweetDeck* you can display them in a separate column; *Nambu* expands them beneath a tweet, *Echofon* shows them in its drawer (in a rather fetching *iChat*-style) when you click on a conversation icon, and both *Tweetie* and *Kiwi* show a conversation when you double-click on a relevant message. On balance, *Echofon's* approach is simplest and clearest, even if chats look nicest in *Kiwi*.

Surprisingly, all but one client lists your direct messages linearly in reverse-chronological order. *Tweetie* is the odd one out, enabling you to access them by contact, which is much clearer, although Nambu at least enables you to view sent and received direct messages separately.

>> TEST RESULTS

Echofon	★★★★☆
Kiwi	★★★☆☆
Nambu	★★★☆☆
TweetDeck	★★★☆☆
Tweetie	★★★★★
Twitterrific	☆☆☆☆☆



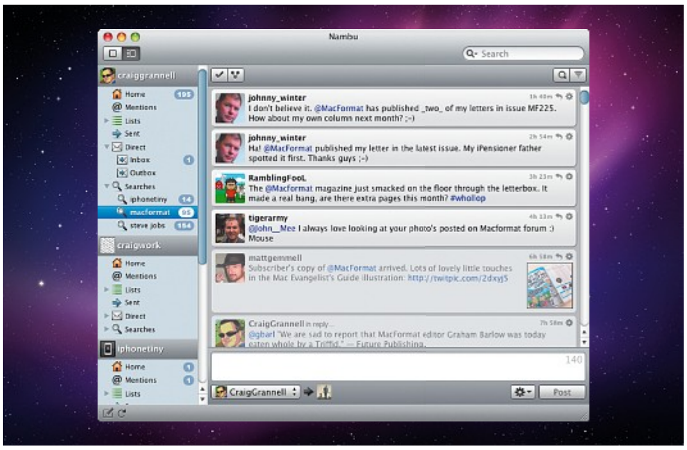
13 minutes ago Craig Grannell
@nathanpitman @panic: Unless, of course, those users are saying to add a permanent preview pane and kybd shortcuts to tags! :D *HINT HINT*

Nathan Pitman 1 hour ago
@panic do what 'YOU' think is right, users can be wrong. :)

Panic Inc 1 hour ago
@nathanpitman We've asked ourselves this a lot. None of us use it! But, it's definitely the #1 request. So, what can you do? :) —C

Nathan Pitman 2 hours ago
@panic get loads of grief for not having implemented code folding in Coda, but is it really a must have or just a UI gimmick?

Tweetie's threading system is first-rate and works with direct messages as well.



johnny_winter 1h 40m
I don't believe it. @MacFormat has published _two_ of my letters in issue MF225. How about my own column next month? ;-)

johnny_winter 2h 54m
Ha! @MacFormat published my letter in the latest issue. My iPensioner father spotted it first. Thanks guys ;-)

RamblingFooL 3h 23m
The @Macformat magazine just smacked on the floor through the letterbox. It made a real bang, are there extra pages this month? #whollop

tigerarmy 4h 13m
@John__Mee I always love looking at your photo's posted on Macformat forum :) Mouse

mattgemmell 6h 58m
Subscriber's copy of @MacFormat arrived. Lots of lovely little touches in the Mac Evangelist's Guide illustration: http://twitpic.com/2dxyj5

CraigGrannell in reply... 7h 58m
@gbarl "We are sad to report that MacFormat editor Graham Barlow was today eaten whole by a Triffid." — Future Publishing.

Nambu can save searches for later use, while badges detail when new results appear.

>> TEST FOUR

Doing searches

Is searching tweets simple and can searches be saved?

All the apps on test, excepting *Twitterrific* and *TweetDeck*, enable you to use a search field to find related tweets, which are then displayed in the main timeline window. Terms you want to track can also be saved, although methods vary. With *TweetDeck*, this is the only means of making a search, and each becomes a separate column – great for tracking, but annoying for one-off searches. The other apps all enable you to flag any search made as a favourite that you can return to later; and, aside from in *Echofon*, new results are highlighted when your feed is refreshed. There are differences in search setups, though, and we found *Nambu's* icons awkward, but *Tweetie's* interface was very clear. *Kiwi* takes a different approach, enabling you to add searches as separately defined 'accounts'. This provides you with more scope for complex searches, at the expense of cluttering the account-switching menu if you've many searches stored.

>> TEST RESULTS

Echofon	★★★☆☆
Kiwi	★★★★☆
Nambu	★★★☆☆
TweetDeck	★★★☆☆
Tweetie	★★★★☆
Twitterrific	☆☆☆☆☆

>> THE WINNER / Echofon

None of the apps here is poor, but three quickly fall out of favour. *Twitterrific* is too basic and fiddly, and *TweetDeck* and *Nambu* are too complex for their own good (although *TweetDeck's* worth considering if you need to track, manage and post to a large number of accounts simultaneously).

Of the others, we like *Tweetie* a lot – its message threading is great – but it lacks support for some recent Twitter features. Its developer now works for Twitter, and a revamped version is likely imminent. Today, though, the title fight is between *Echofon* and *Kiwi*. Despite its small post area and occasional refresh issues on switching accounts, *Echofon* edges it, but if the minimal interface isn't for you, *Kiwi* and *Tweetie* are worthy alternatives.

>> FINAL RESULTS

Echofon	★★★★☆
Kiwi	★★★½☆
Nambu	★★½☆☆
TweetDeck	★★★☆☆
Tweetie	★★★★☆
Twitterrific	★★☆☆☆

Mac FORMAT
Winner!

Web application of the year!

BEST API USE

Best community site

Blog of the year

PODCAST OF THE YEAR

Open source application of the year

Standards champion

Viral campaign of the year

Join the world's best-selling magazine for web designers and developers, as we celebrate the best of the web. Last year the Awards clocked up more than 60,000 votes, and we want you to help us make this year's Awards our best ever! Vote for your favourite sites, apps and services TODAY!

Don't miss out! Cast your vote **NOW!**

www.thenetawards.com

The voting phase closes 12th October

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Windows Internet Explorer 9

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BaseKit MAXIMUM DESIGN - MINIMUM TIME

sitecore

fasthosts

.net MAGAZINE AWARDS_ 2010

INTERACTIVE SITE OF THE YEAR

DESIGN AGENCY OF THE YEAR*

Web personality of the year

Mobile site of the year

INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

Mobile app of the year

Vodcast of the year

BEST REDESIGN OF THE YEAR

"The new Core-i series iMac takes computing to the next level"

» THE LATEST iMACS REVEALED P116

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPADS
- iPODS
- iPHONES

Graham Barlow
Editor

As we were going to press, Apple announced a 1 September event for media journalists. This is just after our deadline and means we can't include whatever will be announced in this issue of *MacFormat*. Of course, by now you'll know all about it, but as I write speculation is rife about what it could be. With the invite featuring a picture of an acoustic guitar with an Apple-shaped sound-hole, as well as the historical precedent for new iPods to be released in September each year, the smart money is on a refresh to the iPod line. The iPod touch, in particular, is looking long in the tooth. And it's practically crying out for the addition of a camera, and preferably one that shoots video as well as still pictures. That's my guess, anyway. To find out if I was right, head over to our website at **www.macfomat.co.uk** where we'll have full details of Apple's latest release. Let's just hope that whatever it is, it's not too expensive!

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac Pro is highly configurable. Order online for over a billion possible configurations. You can opt for up to 12 processing cores, and up to four solid state drives!

The 21.5-inch iMac starts at £999. A top-of-the-range standard iMac costs £1,649.

The top-of-the-range standard configuration of the Mac Pro uses two six-core Intel Xeon processors.

Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

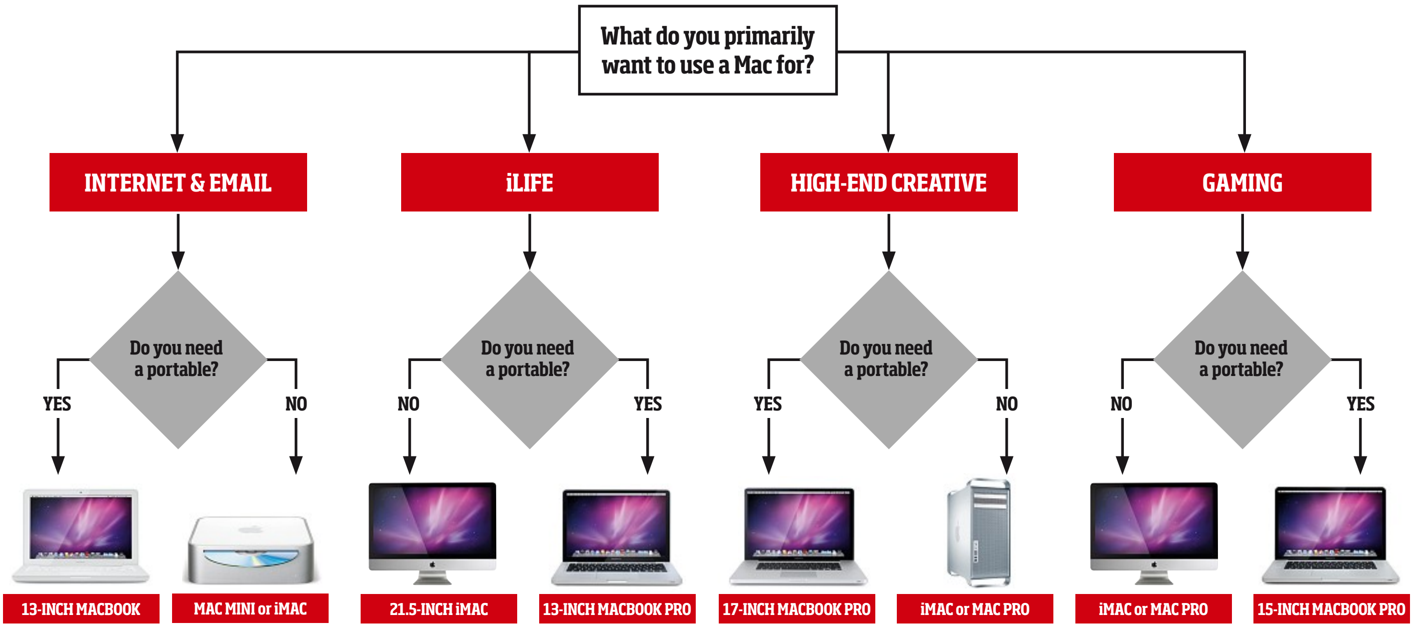
There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **www.apple.com/uk/education/store**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having: for example, a dual-core 27-inch iMac lists for £1,315, compared to the regular price of £1,399. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

> *"The best time to shop for a refurbished, clearance or second-user Mac is just after Apple brings out new models"*

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Bargain Basement

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year and extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

The MacBook is ideal for entry-level users, but the more demanding should go for a Pro.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at http://store.apple.com/uk – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £999. If you want a higher spec, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card – but at £248 extra, you'd really have to want that graphics card. But hang on: you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the specs to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive. Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

> *"Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The iMac's mid-2010 refresh took the entire range onto Intel Core-i processors. Core i3 or i5 CPUs are available as standard, and there's a Core i7 custom option.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options…

21.5-inch 3.06GHz
£999
- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 discrete graphics with 256MB GDDR3 SDRAM • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 3.2GHz
£1,249
- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.2GHz
£1,399
- 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expndable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.8GHz (Quad Core) £1,649
- 2.8GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5750 graphics, 1GB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

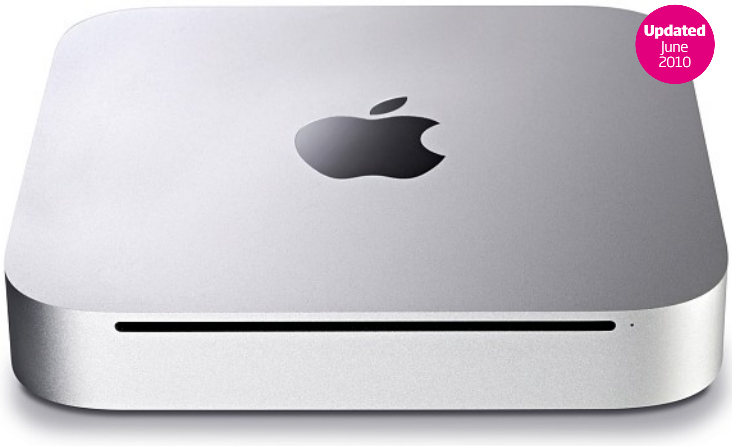
Updated
July
2010

Mac mini

Updated
June
2010

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?
The latest Mac mini offers an SD reader and HDMI, but it does come with one fewer USB 2.0 port than its predecessor.

2.4GHz 320GB
£649
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 4x USB 2.0 • SD card slot
- Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- HDMI to DVI adapter



Mac Pro

Updated August 2010

8-Core
£2,799

- Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

Quad-Core
£1,999

- 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core
£3,999

- Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

MacBook Air

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,174

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm
- Built-in 802.11n Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adapter

13-inch 2.13GHz
£1,378

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive
- Built-in 802.11n Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adapter

MacBook

Updated May 2010

13-inch white 2.4GHz
£849

- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR3SDRAM)
- 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm
- 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera
- Bluetooth 2.0

MacBook Pro

Updated April 2010

13-inch 2.4GHz
£999

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.66GHz
£1,249

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.4GHz
£1,499

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz
£1,649

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,799

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core i7, 4MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

17-inch 2.53GHz
£1,899

- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core i5 3MB shared L3 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The iPad's processor is, according to Apple, a '1GHz A4 custom-designed, high-performance, low-power system-on-a-chip'. Its LED-backlit IPS display gives it an incredible 178-degree viewing angle.

The iPad can be used in landscape or portrait mode, with the screen rotating automatically.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer. It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

> *"The iPad sits between an iPhone and a Mac. If you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is ideal"*

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad comes in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, and is available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. The 3G version costs £100 more initially and comes with data plans from either O2, Orange or Vodafone. Prices start at £429 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £699 for the top-of-the-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad.

The iPhone 4 offers a new form factor and some exciting new features, such as a front-facing camera for video chat.

iPad

Launched May 2010

Seven Wonders of the World
Life in the Serengeti
Wildcats Soccer Team Statistics 2010

iPad 16GB
£429 (Wi-Fi)
£529 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 68g (Wi-Fi model) •73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 32GB
£499 (Wi-Fi)
£599 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 68g (Wi-Fi model) •73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 64GB
£599 (Wi-Fi)
£699 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 68g (Wi-Fi model) •73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPhone

Updated June 2010

iPhone 3GS 8GB
£419 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black • 3.5-inch widescreen • 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime) • 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB
£499 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB
£599 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

>> APPS EVERYWHERE

The iPad, iPhone and the iPod touch featured over the page can all install and run apps from Apple's App Store. Many of these apps (such as the Facebook app, or *Twitteriffic*) are free, but even the paid-for apps are inexpensive compared to the prices of software for the Mac. However, there's one obvious problem: the iPad has a 9.7-inch screen, while the iPhone has a 3.5-inch screen. Obviously, apps designed to run on the iPhone are going to look tiny on the iPad's larger display.

To make them fit, Apple has introduced something called 'pixel doubling'. Every pixel in the app is doubled, so the app becomes twice the size it was before, thus filling the screen (well, pretty much). You also have the option of running the app at its native resolution on the iPad if you prefer, although this can look strange as the app then sits in a sea of blackness. The pixel-doubling approach can make apps look a little bit fuzzy, especially games, but it appears to be a good enough solution for most apps.

Apple is, of course, encouraging developers to design apps specifically for the iPad's larger screen, so if you're an iPad owner, look out for iPad-only versions of your favourite apps from the App Store. Not only do they look better than their iPhone originals, but the larger screen size means developers can fit extra controls and features into the interface. That means more fun to be had in games, for example.

Some apps are only be available for the iPad. Apple is starting the ball rolling here by releasing its *iWork* suite (consisting of *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote*) for the iPad only. Conversely, apps that utilise the camera on the iPhone obviously won't work on the iPad. Look out for apps with a '+' symbol next to their price on the App store. This means the apps will work perfectly on both iPad and iPhone.

iPad games often have extra control options built in.

Choosing an iPod

There's an iPod for everyone

There's an iPod for every occasion. The shuffle is the perfect iPod to take to the gym with you, thanks to its handy lightweight clip-on case. There's no screen, but VoiceOver technology means you can hear the name of each track. The iPod nano is also lightweight enough for exercise, and features a colour screen, a video camera (but no still shots) and FM radio together with a larger capacity. If you really want to carry all your music around with you then you should opt for the chunkier iPod classic, which has a huge 160GB capacity. It can play videos, but it doesn't come with a video camera.

Finally there's the iPod touch. It's essentially an iPhone, but without the phone part. You can use it to connect to a Wi-Fi network for web browsing, email and more. And of course it runs apps form the App Store, so it's great for games. ●

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2009

iPod shuffle 2GB

£46

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 4GB

£60

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod nano

Updated September 2009

iPod nano 8GB

£118

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes video camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£138

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes video camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod classic

Now Playing
iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
MENU

Updated September 2009

iPod classic 160GB

£193

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod touch

Updated September 2009

iPod touch 8GB

£152

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB

£234

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 64GB

£306

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

Mac FORMAT presents

The Essential iPhone 4 Handbook

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £56 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Bluetooth only; 3x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
⊕ Gesture support, good software bundle
⊖ Expensive

Macally mGlide ★★★★☆

Price: £28 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619206
Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor
⊕ Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
⊖ It's a little small

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★

Price: £187 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

⊕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
⊖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
⊕ Packed with features; great text printing
⊖ Average photo printing; expensive

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★

Price: £218 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Key specs: Mono laser printer
⊕ Incredible value to run and great print quality
⊕ Elegant, well-realised text and decent images
⊕ Helpful screen to guide you through problems

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £649 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

⊕ Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
⊖ Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
⊕ Excellent value for money
⊖ No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★☆

Price: £129 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/500421
Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res
⊕ A solid performer; good looking
⊖ Terrible built-in audio

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Scosche IDR655m

★★★★½

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.scosche.com
Full review: MF issue 223 group test
Key specs: Frequency response 15Hz-20KHz; weight 11g; cable length 139cm; six pairs of tips and a carry pouch

⊕ Excellent audio quality; inline controls, with volume adjustment
⊖ Felt like they should fit a little deeper in the ear

"Excellently placed mic and controls, a beautifully lively sound and a comprehensive feature set."

Audio Chi W Series ★★★★★

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 222
Full review: www.techradar.com/690331
Key specs: 3.5mm jack; adjustable headset
⊕ Rich, deep and detailed sound; comfortable
⊖ Some might prefer earbuds

Creative ZiiSound D5 ★★★★½

Price: £280 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702310
Key specs: Bluetooth speaker set for Mac and iPod
⊕ Impressive sound; solid Bluetooth connection
⊖ Not great at shaping the sound

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D

★★★★☆

Price: £570 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; card formats: SD, SDHC; file formats: JPEG, RAW

⊕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Leica V-LUX 20 ★★★★☆

Price: £495 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702331
Key specs: 12.1MP; Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR lens
⊕ Powerful 12x zoom option; GPS tagging
⊖ Expensive for a compact

Samsung ST1000 ★★★★½

Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Full review: www.techradar.com/644939
Key specs: OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Good pics and movies; great GPS
⊖ Too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1,000 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £164 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270

★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/621127
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
⊖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £97 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Janus Wi-Fi Adapter ★★★★☆

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709609
Key specs: Range of up to 1000 metres
⊕ Powerful and solid wireless networking
⊖ Instructions for Mac users not great

STORAGE

My Book Studio II 4TB

★★★★½

Price: £410 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.wdc.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/618319
Key specs: 4TB; USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 and eSATA connectivity; can be reconfigured to different RAID settings

⊕ Four terabytes; triple interface
⊖ Not exactly cheap; chassis is a little flimsy

"Impressive performance and connection for those who need extra space. Pleasantly styled and easy on the eye."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB ★★★★½

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678951
Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity
⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

Apple Time Capsule 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £388 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/629850
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ Simultaneous dual band; high capacity
⊖ No built-in modem

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HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 11 ★★★★★

Price: £219 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683719
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
⊕ Easy to use; built-in charts; Quick Find
⊖ No image import from Bento

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS5

★★★★★

Price: £699 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.adobe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694660
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher; Multi-Core Intel processor; 2.6GB hard drive space; 1GB RAM

⊕ Column spanning in text frames; the DTP app of choice for professionals
⊖ Expensive and not for beginners

"Significant new layout and interactive features make this version a compelling upgrade."

BeLight Swift Publisher ★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 222
Full review: MF Issue 222 group test
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later
⊕ Simple, intuitive and effective layout tools
⊖ Takes a little time to learn how to use it

Apple Aperture 3 ★★★★½

Price: £169 (£79 upgrade) **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678985
System reqs: 10.5.8 or later, Intel Mac, 1GB RAM
⊕ Strong export options and raw handling
⊖ No help migrating from Lightroom

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3

★★★★★

Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

⊕ Updated interface; simpler installation; great new features
⊖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for

"A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."

Remo Recover Pro Edition ★★★★½

Price: £135 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683721
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM
⊕ Straightforward interface; media recovery
⊖ Comparatively expensive

Panic Transmit 4 ★★★★★

Price: £24 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Full review: www.techradar.com/694626
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later
⊕ Fast transfer speeds; improved options
⊖ No significant problems at all

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £71 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space

⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS

"The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £408 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★½

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709610
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Great new tools, including masking function
⊖ It's not the Mac's best-looking app

Mac FORMAT

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Jane Nelson
Age
51
Location
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Hobbies
Cooking (and eating), swimmin
skiing, photogr

Welcome to my site!

Hi! Well it's been a busy summer since Jim and I moved out here to Hampshire, but I finally got around to putting this web site together using the iMac that Jim bought me for my birthday. If you know me, then you probably know what to expect in this site—a little of everything. Some fun, a few "deep thoughts," and lots and lots of pictures. Check out my albums for shots of the BBQs we've had this summer, and the trips we've taken with family and friends. And there's my (almost) daily blog to keep you up to speed on everything else that's been happening around here too. Thanks for visiting!

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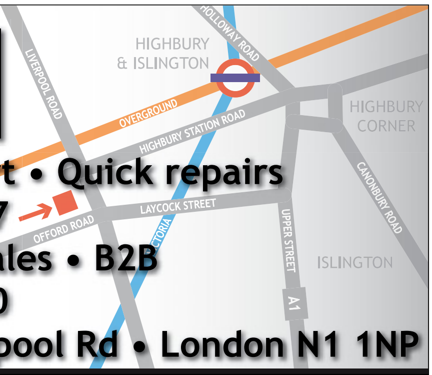

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
contact@macenthusiasts.co.uk
http://www.macenthusiasts.co.uk

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Harlech MUG
South Snowdonia
ian@climb8.com

[16] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[17] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[18] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[19] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[22] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[23] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[24] Oban MUG
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

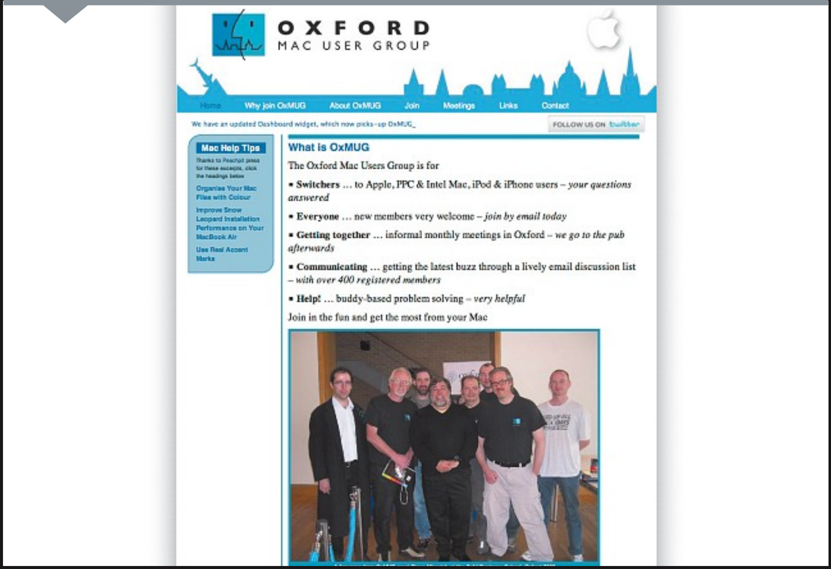
[25] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[26] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[27] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[28] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

MUG OF THE MONTH / Oxford MUG



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Improve Snow Leopard Installation Performance on Your MacBook Air
Use Real Accent Marks

We have an updated Dashboard widget, which now picks-up OxMUG_

What is OxMUG

The Oxford Mac Users Group is for

- **Switchers** … to Apple, PPC & Intel Mac, iPod & iPhone users – *your questions answered*
- **Everyone** … new members very welcome – *join by email today*
- **Getting together** … informal monthly meetings in Oxford – *we go to the pub afterwards*
- **Communicating** … getting the latest buzz through a lively email discussion list – *with over 400 registered members*
- **Help!** … buddy-based problem solving – *very helpful*

Join in the fun and get the most from your Mac

What better place for a Mac User Group than amongst the dreaming spires of Oxford? OxMUG is a not-for-profit group run for and by Apple enthusiasts. It's the ideal place to start if you've got a new Mac and want to learn more about it, or you'd just like to get together with other people who share your love for all things Apple. Meetings are usually held in the Denys Wilkinson Building on Keble Road and cost £2. See the website **www.oxmug.org** for more details.

[29] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[30] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[31] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[32] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[33] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[34] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[35] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[37] Tunbridge Wells MUG
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
christo.skelton@gmail.com
http://twmug.org.uk/

[38] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
ymug@mactalk.info
www.ymug.org

NEW STARTER

START YOUR OWN MUG

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

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>>WATERMARK GENERATOR

The Batch Watermarks 2

Brand your images for the web

These days web surfers seem to think anything that's online can be downloaded for free. But if you're showcasing professional images online, you won't want people stealing them without some financial reimbursement. One solution is to watermark those photos to prevent unauthorised reproduction. This app will intelligently apply text or imagery to pictures, automatically adjusting font size, font colour, opacity and more.

Upgrade to version TBW 3.2
Knock 15% off by using the code MACFORMAT01. Go to the homepage at **www.thebatchwatermarks.com**.

>>VECTOR EDITOR

Sketsa 4.2.2

Create great vector artwork

Based on SVG, a series of XML file format specifications that describe 2D vector graphics, *Sketsa* features a plethora of tools for giving designers the creativity they require to make awesome-looking projects. Some of the great features built into this cross-platform Java app include a property palette, source editor, defs editor, SVG specific shape tools, transformation and other illustration tools. Now's your chance to bin that clip art and start making some visually wonderful graphics of your own.

Upgrade to Sketsa SVG Editor 6.4
Go to **www.kiyut.com** and enter the code C22610042 during checkout to save yourself 30% off the price of *Sketsa*.

>>LP DIGITISER

VinylStudio Lite

Digitise your old records

Now you can dust off your old tapes and LPs that you stashed away in your loft all those years ago. It's time to bring those favourites of yours from yesteryear to life again by recording them to your Mac, where you'll be able to punt them across to your iPod and listen to them on the move. *VinylStudio* can split your recordings into tracks, find listings and album art online and more. Upgrade to save in compressed formats or use the audio cleanup tools beyond the trial offer in this *Lite* version.

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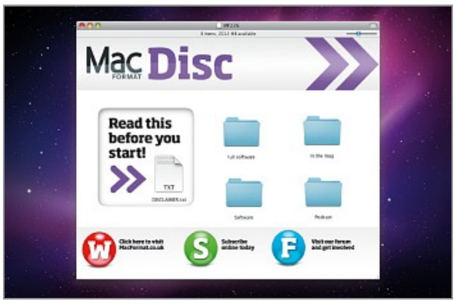
>>HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc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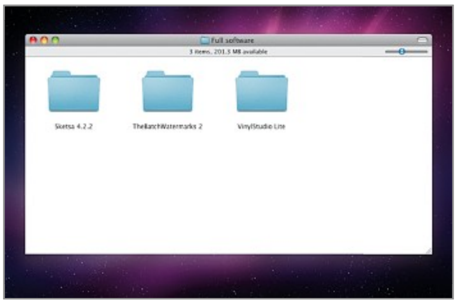
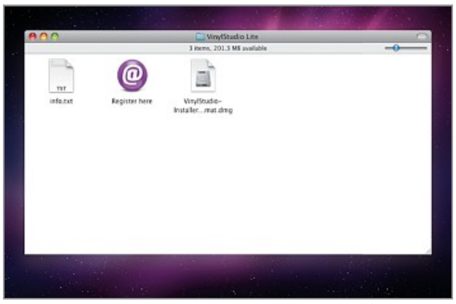
01 Loading the disc

Once you've inserted the disc in your Mac's optical drive and clicked on the disc icon to display its contents, you'll be greeted with this folder. Please make sure you read the disclaimer text file before you progress.


Full software
3 items, 201.3 MB available
Sketsa 4.2.2
TheBatchWatermarks 2
VinylStudio Lite

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.


VinylStudio Lite
3 items, 201.3 MB available
info.txt
Register here
VinylStudio-Installer...mat.dmg

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your desktop to open. ●

ON THE DISC

MacFORMAT Disc

>> HAVING PROBLEMS?

For further help email **support@futurenet.co.uk** or call our support team on **01225 822743**. If you have comments please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

Three full programs plus widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

FULL SOFTWARE
Sketsa 4.2.2
TheBatchWatermarks 2
VinylStudio Lite

SOFTWARE
Recommended
Sketsa 6.3
TheBatchWatermarks 3.3
VinylStudio 7.5.4

Top freeware
AnyToISO 2.9
GuitarTools 0.80
MindNode 1.5.2
OpenLaszlo 4.8.1
PasswordVault Lite 7.4.3
QuartzCube 3.4
Shade 1.0
Synthesia 0.7.3
Transmission 2.04

Widgets
Gooculator 1.0
Red Alarm Clock 3.6
Tea Timer 1.7.1
Top Recipes 0.1

Podcast
28th July 2010

MacFORMAT
ISSUE 226 / October 2010

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IN THE MAG
Group Test
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Twitterrific 3.2.4

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Kill Monty 1.1
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Raskin 1.0.2
Simple Comic 1.7

Tutorials
CleanMyMac 1.9.2
Labels X 3.0.1

>> FINDING A SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but - as with any new software - we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We regret that are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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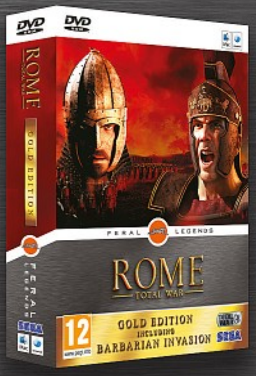
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Hove BN3 7ED

Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
Bournemouth BH1 1LR

St. Albans
11 The Maltings Shopping Centre
St. Albans, Hertfordshire

Guildford
27 Friary Street.
Guildford GU1 4EH

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Chichester PO19 1DS

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